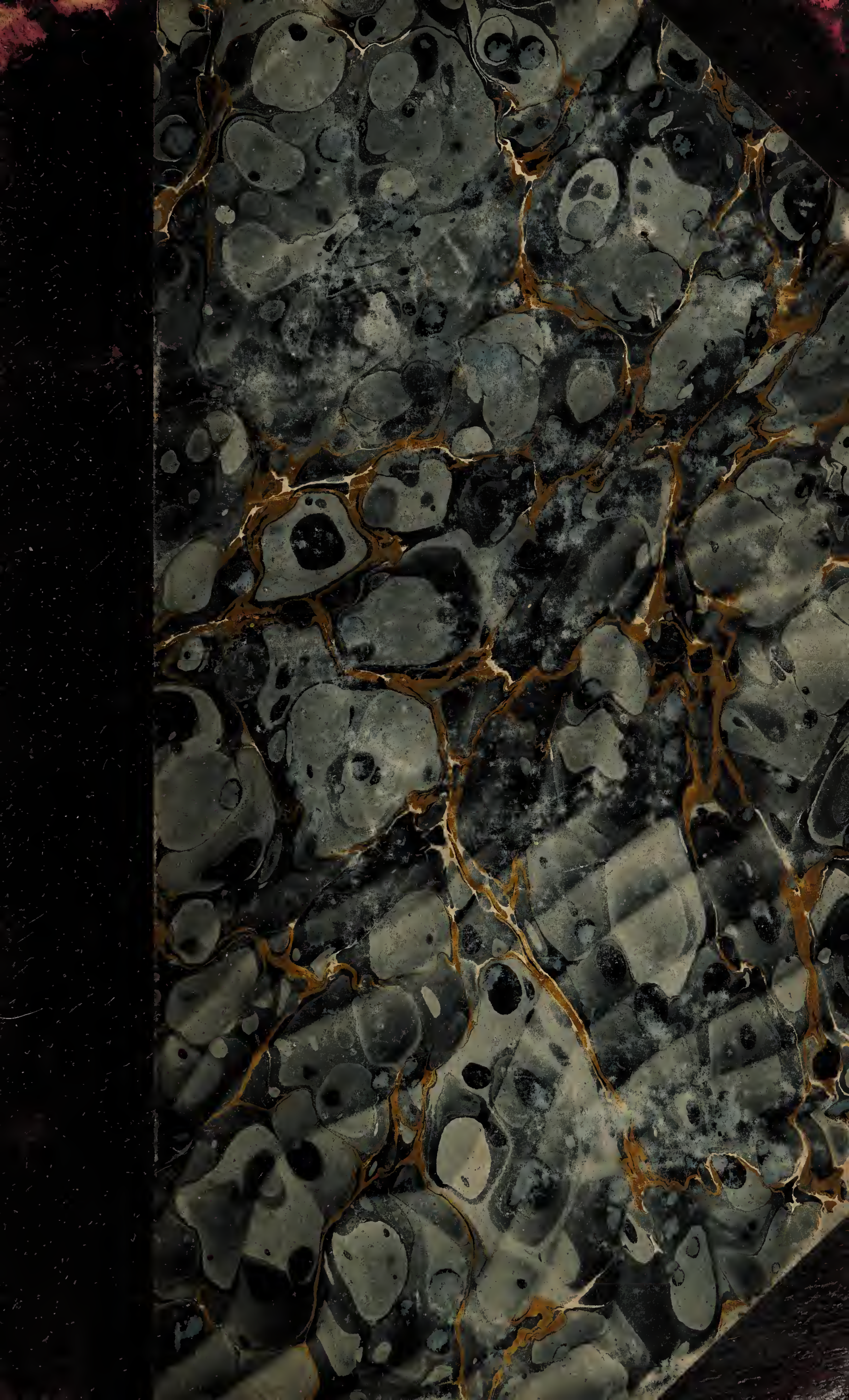
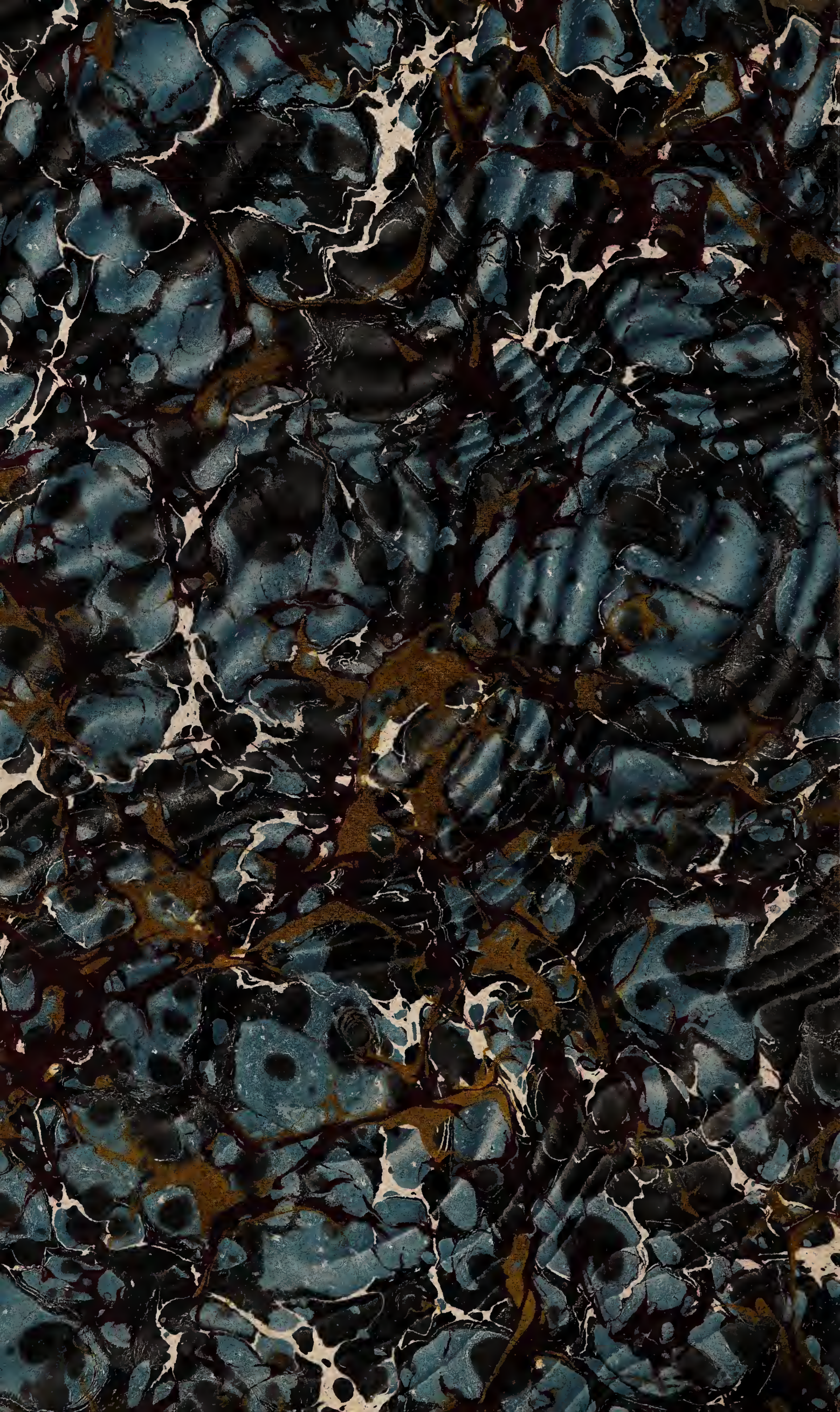
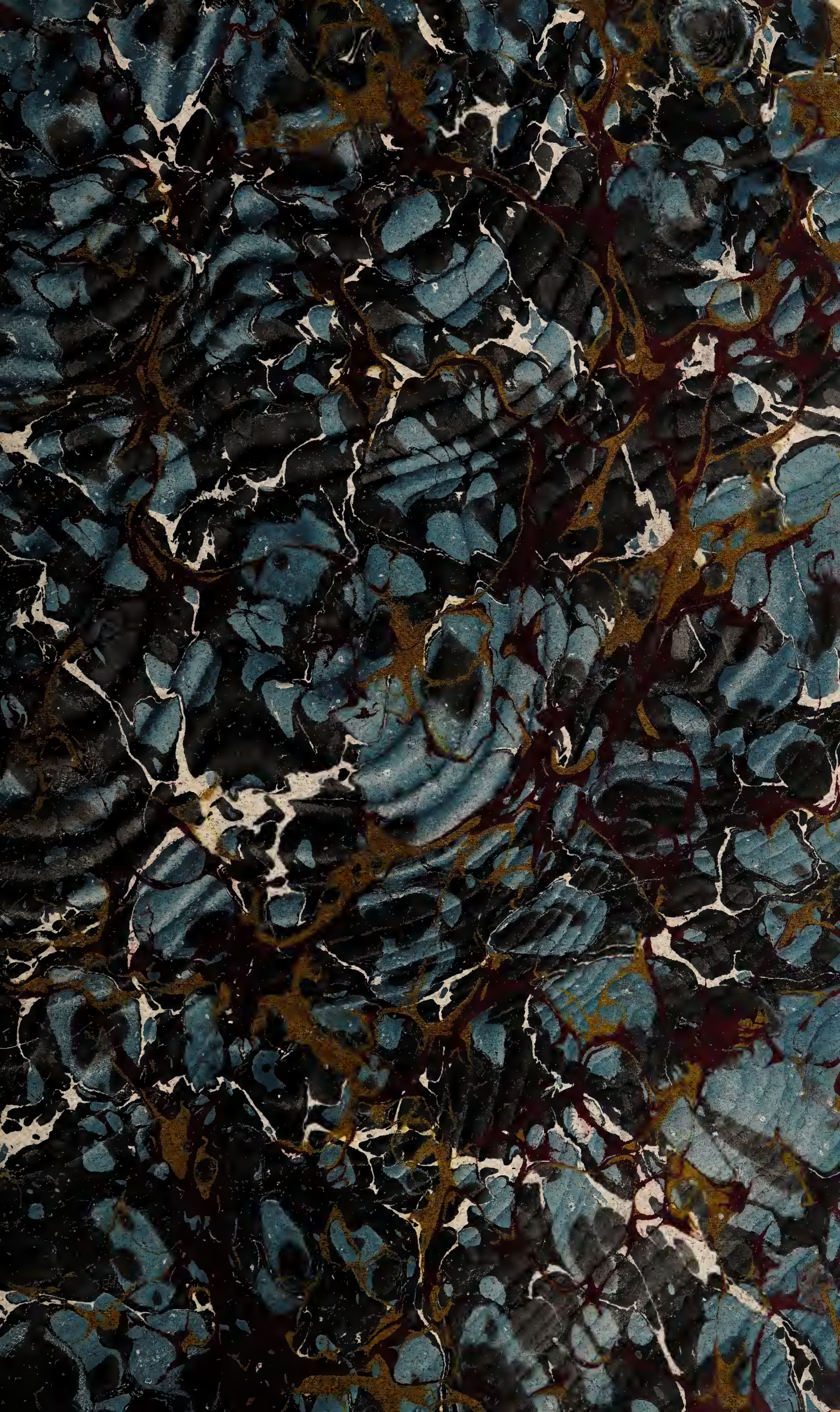




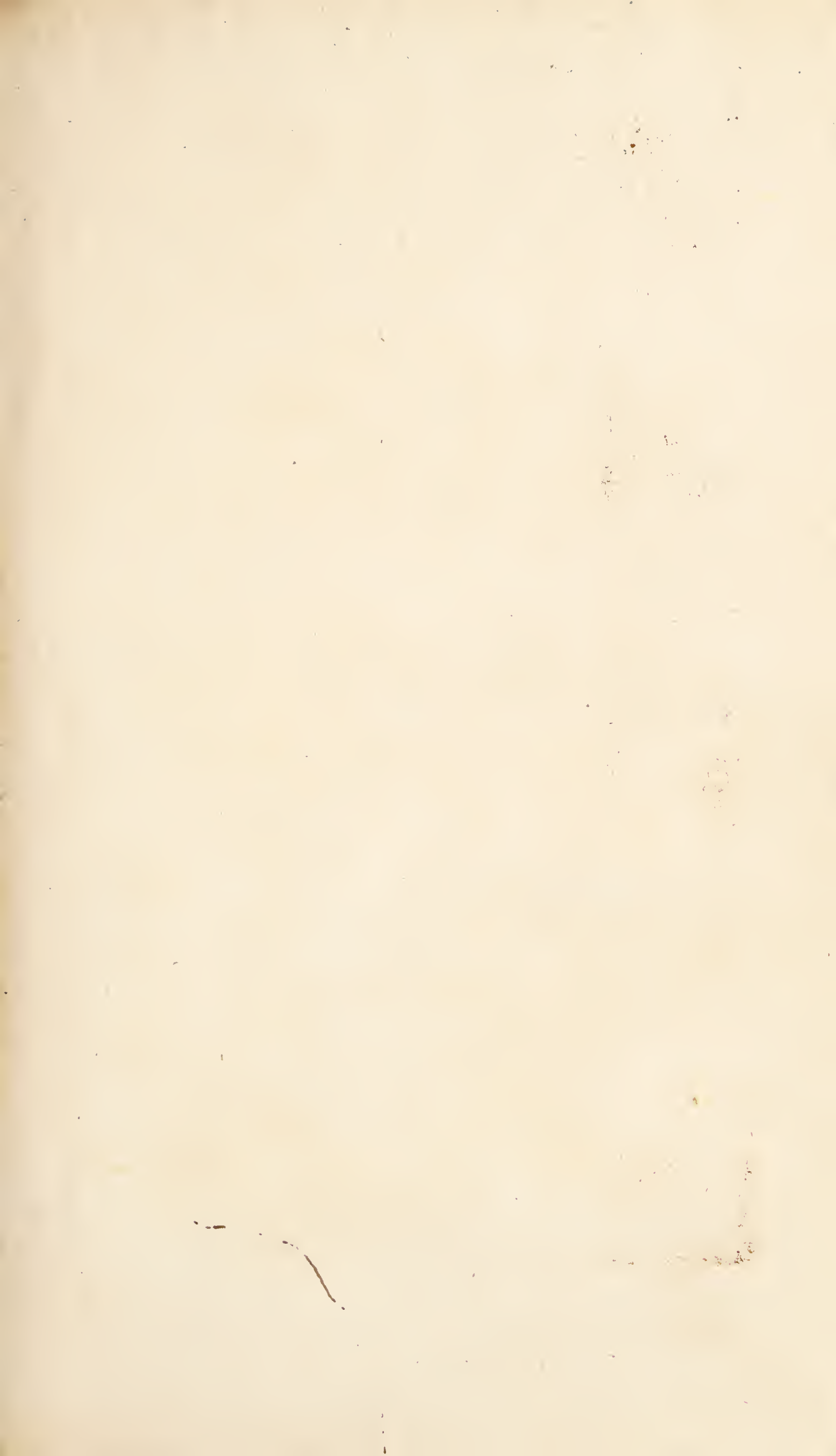




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*Topographical & Historical
Description of*
NORTH WALES.



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A

TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL

Description

OF

NORTH WALES;

CONTAINING

AN ACCOUNT OF ITS

TOWNS,	||	CHURCHES,	||	PUBLIC EDIFICES,
CATHEDRALS,	||	MONUMENTS,	||	PICTURESQUE
CASTLES,	||	ANTIQUITIES,	||	SCENERY,

THE RESIDENCES OF THE

NOBILITY, GENTRY, &c.

Accompanied with Biographical Notices of Eminent and Learned Men
to whom this County has given Birth.

BY REV. MR. EVANS.

Illustrated with Twenty-nine Engravings and a Map.

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THE
BEAUTIES
OF
England and Wales.

CAMBRIA.

THE portion of the Island here delineated and described, is in a variety of views peculiarly interesting; whether the nature of the country, its prominent geographical features, rare productions, and picturesque scenery be considered; or the characteristics of the inhabitants, a people whose circumstances, actions, and fate, stand single, and unparalleled in the annals of the world. Wales, naturally prolific in multifarious substances conducive to the welfare of the arts, is of vast importance to trade; and from its maritime situation must eventually become equally so in a commercial respect. The varied face of the surface, diversified as it is with mountains and valleys, with woods, rivers, lakes and cataracts, is particularly inviting to the artist, or the amateur of nature; and the numerous vestiges of antiquity, which lead reflection back to the scenes, and transactions of remote periods, are calculated strongly to arrest the attention of the antiquary, and historian, to a country, long the asylum of freedom and religion; the residence of a nation which, from the earliest period of its existence, was distinguished by independency of spirit; for ages defended the rights of nature, and hurled defiance against the oppressors of mankind. Anti-

quaries have been divided in their opinions,* respecting the origin of the names, usually given to that portion of Britain, situated to the west of the rivers Severn and Dee. The derivation, however, of the former, is clearly deduced from the original inhabitants having been a tribe of the Celtæ or Gauls, known under the denomination of *Cimbri* and *Cymri*; whence the Romans, agreeable to the genius of their language, would call the country, inhabited by such people, in Latin, *Cambria*.† As to the latter term, which the Saxons appear to have applied to this territory, and also to *Danmonium*, which comprised Devonshire and Cornwall, the etymology is not so obviously manifest. It has been by some writers observed, that *Walsh*, in the northern languages of Europe, signifies a *stranger*, and the Britons being totally unlike their conquerors, in speech and customs were, from that dissimilarity, called *Welsh*, and their country, *Wales*. Others dissatisfied with this opinion, suppose from the apparent conformity in language and manners between these Britons and the Gauls, the Saxons gave them the same appellation. But the learned Sumner remarks upon this supposition, that the Saxon conquerors did not so designate them till they had expelled

* Giraldus says, *Cambria* was so called from *Camber*, son of *Brutus*, but observes it is asserted by others, that the appellation was derived from *Cam* and *Graco*, that is, distorted Greek, on account of the affinity of their language, contracted by their long residence in Greece. The Saxons, when they seized upon Britain, called this nation, as they did all foreigners, *Wallons*. The Itinerary of Archbishop Baldwin, and other topographical works, relative to Wales; of Giraldus de Barri, commonly called Giraldus *Cambrensis*, translated by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart. with the addition of valuable illustrative annotations and notes, and elucidatory plates, in two volumes, quarto. For the sake of brevity this work will be referred to under the title, Hoare's Giraldus.

† Thus among the Gauls, Diodorus mentions as two principal tribes, the *Cimbri*, and *Si-Cambri*, the *Sigambri* of Tacitus, the former inhabiting the peninsula of Jutland, and the latter seated near the river Rhine. And in the northern department of the French Empire, the city of *Cambray* on the *Scheldt*, the capital of the ancient *Cambresis*, or *Cambria*, retains the name, whence the fine linen, originally manufactured there, still goes under the appellation of *Cambrie*.

pelled them beyond the Severn, that the Saxon verb *weallan*, means to *wander*, and that by this denomination they intended to brand them as flying cowards, and therefore Wales is equivalent to a land of fugitives. A more modern antiquary, however, contends, that the name was applied to the Britons much earlier, than is stated by Mr. Sumner; for the Saxon chronicle mentions the Britons by the title of *Brit-walas*, or *Brit-walana*, and frequently speaks of the troops under Hengist and Ella, almost at the commencement of the war with the Britons as having routed the *Wealas*, *Wylishe*, or *Welsh* in Kent and Sussex. The denomination of the Britons among themselves, as well as neighbouring nations, was popularly *Gall* or *Wall*. This appellation, which extended over all the British isles and a considerable portion of the continent, has been frequently attempted to be explained by the philological critics both at home and abroad; but its meaning still remains veiled in obscurity. The genuine import of the word seems however sufficiently obvious to an attentive observer. "The Irish and Highlanders reciprocally denominate themselves by the general title of *Gael*, *Cael* or *Gauls*. But they also denominate themselves, and the Welsh originally called themselves, and still call both by the title of *Guidhyl*, *Guethel* and *Gathel*. And this appellation is the origin of the other. The intermediate *Th* being left quiescent in the pronunciation, *Gathel* is immediately formed into *Gael*, *Gathel*, *Gael* and *Galath* are all one and the same, varying appellation, and it signifies merely the woodlanders. *Guyth-t* and *Guel-z* import among the Irish, the Welsh, and the Americans, a man of the *Guylh*, *Guel* or wood; all of them the evident remains of the ancient *Guidhil*, or *Guethel*, a wood."* Whether this etymology be admitted to the full extent, or not, it will serve to demonstrate, that their origin was Celtic; and that their discriminating denomination was derived from the same source, as a colony from Gaul. It may be objected, there is a manifest difference between *Gael*, and *Wael* or *Walt*, whence *Wallia*, *Wales*

* Whitaker's History of Manchester, octavo Edit. Vol. II. p. 232.

and Welsh is derived; but to those acquainted with the British language, the affinity will be strikingly demonstrative; for by the genius of that, several of the consonants, from circumstances interchange, and m, b, f, v, and w, are considered versatile letters, and equivalent to the m of the northern and Latin tongues.* And this denomination of Wales which has almost been uniformly asserted by English writers to have been imposed upon the country by the Saxons, actually appears the acknowledged name of this region in the poetry of a Welsh bard, as early as the sixth century.

“ Eu Ner a folant,
Eu hiaith a gadwant;
Eu tir a gollant,
And gwyllt *Wallia*.”

TALIESIN.

Yet still their maker they shall praise,
And still their language yet preserve;
Although of country be deprived,
Except uncultured *Wales*.

The derivations of the Britons from the Gauls, Cæsar and Tacitus deduce from the vicinity of the two countries, and the similarity of manners and character; but a stronger argument is found in the national appellation of Gael and Gaul, equally assumed by both people. The great current of European population, obviously for centuries, took a direction to the west; and the British Isles were evidently replenished from the adjacent shores of Gaul. When the first migration happened, or what, previous to the Christian era, was the state of society in Britain, is referable to a general description of the Island. Who were the inhabitants of Cambria and what their national condition and character, at the period the Romans invaded this part of the country, are subjects for present consideration. It will appear, that the inhabitants of Wales were part of the aboriginal possessors, and whose numbers must have been greatly increased by

* Letter from Edward Lloyd to Henry Rowland in *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, p. 305.

by those Britons, who, retreating before the victorious Romans, fled to this district, as a dernier resort to preserve their independence. After the invaders had secured the central part of Britain, by forming stations, and appointing garrisons, and given to it the name of *Britannia prima*; they then turned their attention to the reduction of the unconquered portion, lying west of the Severn. When Ostorius, the Roman general took a survey of this country, which he was sent with an army to subdue, he found it possessed by three tribes of people, denominated from their respective districts, *Ordovices*, *Silures*, and *Demetæ*.

The *Ordovices* at the Roman invasion were in possession of all the country, comprised in the present North Wales, viz. the counties of Anglesea, Caernarvon, Montgomery, Merioneth, Denbigh, and Flint, except a small part of the latter adjacent to Bangor occupied by the *Carnabii*, and all those parts of Shropshire, situated to the south and west of the Severn. Camden attempts to derive their appellative distinction from the people having originally settled upon the river *Devi*, whence they were called oar-devi, in British signifying on the *Devi*, and thence *Ordevices*: as the *Amoricians* were so denominated from inhabiting the sea-coasts; the *Averni*, upon the river *Avernus*; and the *Horesci* on the banks of the *Esk*. But another and more probable etymology has been advanced by other writers. Bede mentions two British tribes under the names of the *Huiccü*, *Wiccü*, *Vicü*, and *Vices*; the one inhabiting Warwickshire, and Worcestershire, and having for their capital *Brannogenium*, the city of Worcester; and the other, the country to the north-west of it, from which circumstance, or the mountainous state of their country, they received the appellations of *Ard*, or *Ordovices*, that is the northern or upper vices.*

The *Silures*, possessed, according to Ptolemy, the district, at present comprising the counties of Hereford, Radnor, Breck-

B 3

nock,

* *Ard* in British, signifies high, lofty, and metaphorically honourable, and *vices*, a brave or fighting people. See Baxter's Glossary, under the word *Icen*.

nock, Monmouth, and Glamorgan, and the small portion of Gloucestershire west of the Severn; and had for their capital *Caer Gwent* in Monmouthshire. The name of this tribe has been a subject of much antiquarian research, after all which, Camden confesses, he could find no derivation, that in the least corresponded with the nature of the people. The name by some has been derived from *sil*, *aspicio*, to look at, this people having been remarkable for their bold countenance. And in this work* the etymology has been sought in *Esyllwg*, a term implying an open country of downs, abounding with prospects; hence its inhabitants were denominated *Gwyr Esyllwg*, *Gwyr Esyllyr*, &c. &c. from their derivatives *Syllyrwys*. Mr. Lewis Morris, however, more probably derived it from *Islwyr*, a term imparting lowlanders, in respect to the highlanders, the *Ordovices*, which latter name he observed comes from *Arddyfeich*, i. e. inhabitants north of the river *Dyfi*.

The *Dimetæ* were situated west of the *Silures*, and their country in British called *Difed*† whence is evidently derived the Roman appellation; the Latins frequently softening the *f*, or *v*, into *m*, in words they adopted from that language. They possessed the country at present including the counties of Cardigan, Pembroke, and Carmarthen. Some writers have comprehended this district under that of the *Silures*; but Ptolemy places here a people, whom he denominated *Dimetæ*; and both Gildas and Nennius, early British writers, designate and describe the country under the name of *Dimetia*.

Such were the inhabitants of Wales, when the Romans first entered it with an hostile army. Respecting the condition or state of these Britons at the period in question, there has been a great discrepancy of opinion among the most learned of our writers. Some without possessing that impartiality, which should

* For this, and a more particular account of the tribe, see the *The Beauties*, Vol. VI. p. 401.

† The derivation, given by Camden from *Deben-Meath*, i. e. the plain to the south, shows how little that great antiquary was acquainted with the genius, of the language, or the distinguishing features of this country.

should ever accompany the inquirer after truth, and in despite of the most unexceptionable authorities, treat these people as naked, illiterate, wretched savages; destitute of clothes, and without any shelter from the inclemency of the weather, but what they found in miserably constructed hovels or hollow trees; fierce by nature, rude in their manners, unacquainted with the arts, and at a vast distance from civilization. Others, following the British history, describe them as a martial, potent, learned, flourishing, and trading nation, well known in other countries by their commercial and military relations; as a people who possessed a foreign trade, equipped large fleets, sent out powerful armies, and atchieved numerous conquests abroad; and at home erected stately edifices, founded large cities, and instituted seminaries of learning, so as to obtain respect from surrounding nations. This may and probably is a picture possessing too little that is real in its general outline, not sufficiently accurate in its figures, and far too high and glowing in the colouring. But waving the testimony of authorities, which in some respects may be considered doubtful, and adopting as guides, reason and experience; it will be readily discerned, that these ancient Britons need not be degraded into absolute savages, merely because the Romans, in imitation of the Greeks, chose to give, as they did to all strangers, the contemptuous name of *barbarians*. There can be no doubt but they brought with them the knowledge of the arts and sciences to whatever extent they were possessed by the parent country, at the time of their emigration. And these they must have had abundance of opportunities of exercising in a country, the state of which could administer little to their subsistence or comfort, without the application of both labour and skill.

When visited by the Romans, they had a religion remarkable for its numerous ceremonies, an order of priests, and places set apart for public worship. They possessed an established government, consisting of a princely aristocracy, united, in times of danger, under one head. Their militia were composed of

regular and well disciplined troops, divided into charioteers, cavalry and infantry, and their horses were admirably trained for the purposes of war.

With respect to their vast naval power, though attempted to be established by the learned Selden, considerable objective doubts may be urged, founded upon authentic documents. As to small vessels, which does not exclude the probability of their having others of larger dimensions, Cæsar, bears ample testimony to the ingenuity of their construction, and their great convenience; and acknowledges himself indebted to the Britons for several useful improvements in the Roman navy. The facility with which these instruments of aquatic conveyance were made, and their peculiar portability has occasioned a continuance of their use, and *corracles* still form the fishing boats, which ply on the rivers of Wales.

They seem also to have understood rural economy for their keepers of cattle having a distinct appellation, evinces, that numbers of others were occupied in the labours of the field. In consequence of which they appear to have had sufficient corn for their own support, and their pastures were abundantly stocked with cattle, sheep, and hogs. Besides they bred for amusement, hares, geese, and poultry. That an idea of individual property was prevalent among them is manifest from all disputes respecting limits of lands, having been referable for their decision to the Druids. In their negotiations with each other, for money they used rings or small plates of iron strung together, and what proves great exactness in their dealings is, these passed among them by weight as well as tale. Supposing they possessed no minted coins, this circumstance alone would be a sufficient evidence of their civilization; since it is deducible from history, that no nation in a state of barbarism ever adopted in buying and selling a circulating medium. That they possessed a foreign commerce is manifest, for the inhabitants of Britany, or Bretagne, traded hither in large ships and the ports of Briton were visited by merchant vessels from the

Levant. These facts * respecting the first inhabitants will suggest to the reflecting mind, that, the Romans on their arrival did not find our ancestors hordes of ignorant savages; but a people, though widely different from their invaders in temper, customs, and manners, having all the necessities, and some of the conveniencies of life: and what is the most invaluable of all possessions, contentment in their condition. It will also further appear, that so early as their actions furnished materials for history, the Britons breathed a spirit of genuine freedom; had imbibed rational notions of its political advantages, and the miseries resulting from despotic power. Upon this principle, therefore, they always studied to procure, and preserve their liberty, and whenever they were deprived of it, by any undue extension of arbitrary power, they never ceased struggling till the galling yoke of despotism was removed. The same spirit animated their minds, and the same temper pervaded their actions, when their country was invaded by the Romans. Excited by a patriotism, never exceeded in the annals of man, and stimulated by a noble ambition never to be satisfied, but by victory, nor extinguished, but by death, they fought with a degree of bravery, that astonished the legionary troops; performed prodigies of valour, which nearly represented them as invincible; and disputed every inch of ground with a tenacity and obstinacy, that extorted from their victors the tribute of admiration†. Suetonius Paulinus overcame the Ordovices, and extirpated the remainder of the Druids, and other religious, who had fled to the island of Mona, the principal seat of their superstitious rites; vainly imagining, the Deity would there afford them an invulnerable shield against the Roman arms. Notwithstanding this, the heroic Silures
for

* For the documents on which these are founded see Cæsar, de Bello Gallico, Lib. I. IV, V. et VI. Ammianus Marcellinus, Lib. XV. Diodorus Siculus, Lib. VI. Tacitus in Vita Agricolaë, and Stillingfleet's Origines Britannicæ.

† Tacitus describes this spirit of resistance by the significant and very emphatic term, *pervicacia*, a stubborn immobility of character.

for years continued their struggle for liberty, till at length Julius Agricola was sent hither with a powerful army by the emperor Vespasian; and having entirely defeated the Britons under their intrepid leader, Caractacus, in a decisive battle near *Caer Caradoc*, on the borders of *Salop*, he completely reduced this part of the Island to the Roman yoke. The affability of this General gained him the affections of the people, and, many by his great urbanity he disposed to embrace the Roman manners; flattering them with the names, and bestowing on them the privileges of citizens; receiving them into his armies, providing for the education of their youth, living amongst them in a style of great hospitality, rewarding their valour, and commending their learning and politeness. Thus, securing by policy what he had won by force, *Cambria* was dignified with the name of *Britannia secunda*: and the conquerors, as they had previously done in *Britannia prima*, began to establish jurisdictions, appoint magistrates, and adopt other measures for the due and regular administration of the laws. Towns were built, stations appointed, and garrisoned, and roads formed for intercommunication between them. So speedily and successfully did they proceed in their settlement of this country, that in a few years, *Wales* assumed all the appearance of a Roman colony. The following were the *stations*, erected on that occasion.

Caer Gybi, Holyhead in *Anglesea*.

Segontium, *Caer Seiont*, *Caernarvon*.

Varis, *Bodvary* in *Flintshire*, near *Denbigh*.

Caergwrle and *Holt*, also in *Flintshire*, appear to be sites of stations.

Banchorium, *Bangor-Iscoed* on the banks of the *Dee*.

Heriri Mons, placed by *Stukeley*, near *Bala* in *Merionthshire*; but with greater probability at *Tommen y mur* near *Festiniog*; yet *Caer Gai*, in the vicinity of the former place, seems to have been a station.

Mediolanum, *Meivod*, or *Myfod*, in *Montgomeryshire*. Three other places in this county, seem to lay claim to such honourable

honourable distinction, viz. *Penalet* near Machynlleth, *Caer-Sws* in the vicinity of Newtown, and the *Gaer* by Montgomery.

Magna, Gale and Stukely place at Old Radnor; but Horsley has removed it to Kenchester.

Loventium, Llanio isa in Cardiganshire.

Ad vigesimum, mentioned only in the itinerary of Richard de Cirencester, is supposed by some to have been situated at Castel Fleming, and by others near Narberth, in Pembroke-shire.

Menapia, the port for Ireland, near the present St. David's.

Maridunum, Caermarthen.

Llanvar ar y Bryn in Caermarthenshire is evidently the site of a station.

Leucarum, Louchar, or Lougher, in Glamorganshire.

Bomium, Boverton, near Ewenny.

Nidum, Neath.

Tibia Amnis, Caerdiff.

Gobannium, Abergavenny in Monmouthshire.

Blestium, Monmouth.

Burrium, Usk.

Isca Silurum, the capital of the colony, and residence of a prætor.

Venta Silurum, Caerwent.

Ad Sabrinum, On the Severn, near the new, or old passage.

The towns, classed as stations, were of different degrees, varying not merely in the rank of civil estimation; but also in the nature of their constitution. They were particularly distinguished into four orders, *latian*, *colonial*, *municipal* and *stipendiary*. The first had the *Jus Latii* communicated to them, which exempted them from the ordinary jurisdiction of the prætor; and the inhabitants were not governed by a foreign præfect and questor, but those officers were elected from among themselves. A Briton was their president, a Briton their justiciary, and a Briton their collector, and such as had served these offices, became entitled to the privileges of Roman citizens.

Of

Of this description there were several in Britain, but none in Wales.

The second kind were governed by a different polity. They were those towns or cities, which formed the head quarters of the respective legions, where some of the principal cohorts were stationed, the eagle or standard was deposited, and the commander in chief resided. Towns of this class were occupied by Romans, and chiefly by legionary soldiers, who received portions of land in the neighbourhood, as a reward for past services; and as an inducement to be vigilant in the suppression of insurrection. Yet for the sake of protection numbers of the natives took up their habitation near, and were consequently deemed Roman citizens, and subjected to the imperial laws. Such was the *Isca Silurum*, the ancient Caerleon.

The third, or stipendiary towns had their constitution courts of justice and offices copied from those at Rome, and governed by officers, deputed by the prætor.

Exclusive of these, a few ranked as Municipia, by virtue of which distinction they were invested with the privilege of enacting laws for the regulation of their own affairs, and were exempted from subjection to the imperial code. The inhabitants also, without being divested of their native citizenship, were considered as denizens of Rome. None of this description appear to have existed in Cambria.

Of the ROMAN ROADS, though more distinct traces might be supposed to exist in Wales, than in England, from their vestiges not having been equally liable to obliteration, by the hand of cultivation: yet for want of due investigation few of them have been traced in a satisfactory manner.

For a clue to the inquisitive visitor of an interesting country on this point of antiquarian research, the following distinction may be useful. 1. *Via Julia Maritima*. 2. *Via Julia Montana*. 3. *Via Occidentalis*. 4. *Via Devana*. 5. *Via Orientalis*. 6. *Northern Watling-street*. 7. *Southern Watling-street*.* Re-
mains

mains also of *Vicinal*, or cross roads, are discoverable in several places.

1. *Via Julia Maritima*, which received the name of Julia from Julia Frontinus, who successfully conducted the Roman arms against the Silures, is supposed to have connected the stations contained in the eleventh Iter of Richard de Cirencester. This road was a continuation of the Akeman street from *Aqua Solis*, Bath; and directing its course westward across the Severn, passed through Monmouthshire to *Tibia Amnis*, Caerdiff in Glamorganshire; thence to *Bovium*, or *Bonium*, near Ewenny, to *Nidus*, Neath; *Leucarum*, Lougher; *Maridunum*, Caermarthen; *Ad Vigessimum* Castel Fleming, near Amblestone in Pembrokeshire: whence it proceeded to *Ad Menapium*, near St. David's. Although probably this was the direction, yet few traces of this road have been discovered, except on that part of the line, which traverses Monmouthshire†.

2. *Via Julia Montana* was an upper road, forming a communication from the more central parts of the Island by the Ryknild-street, coming from *Glevum*, Gloucester, and passing through the superior part of Monmouthshire, entered the county of Brecknock, where it is visible at the Gaer, and near it have been discovered Roman bricks, inscribed, *Leg. II. Aug.* and an antique stone, on which are sculptured a male and female figure. Its direction was by Rhyd y Briew bridge, and near Trecastle it proceeded over the mountains to the station at *Llantair ar y Bryn*, near Llandovery and thence along the vale by Llandilo to Maridunum, Caermarthen, &c. where it coalesced with the maritime, or lower road already described, and both terminated at St. David's. It is said to be visible in the vale of Whitland, but no satisfactory vestiges, to mark its precise course, have hitherto been discovered.

Via Occidentalis. This appears to have extended along the western coast of Wales, from *Ad Menapium* to *Segontium*, forming

* Hoare's Giralduſ, Vol. I. Introd. p. CXL.

† See Beauties, Vol. XI. Monmouthshire, p. 4.

ing connecting links between the intermediate stations. In an ancient manuscript account of Pembrokeshire*, by George Owen Esq. the line of road passing along the ridge of the Prescelly or Preseleu Mountains in Pembrokeshire manifestly formed part of it. Entering Cardiganshire it proceeded to *Loventium*, or *Loventinum*, in the parish of Llanio-isa, where Roman inscribed stones have been found, one of which particularly demonstrates this to have been the site of a station. The inscription is Co H. H. A. . G FVP, which the learned translator of Giraldus reads thus, *Cohors secundæ (legionis) Augusta fecit quinque passus*: Evidently allusive to some work performed by the second Augustan legion, at or near this spot. From this city the road went to the large Roman Encampment at Penallt, which was probably a station, near Machynlleth in Montgomeryshire. Between the two places many traces of it are visible, particularly at Lledrod; and notices of it are discoverable in the names of several places, as Tal-sarn Cwm-sarn, &c. &c. and the road in this part of the line is known under the British denomination of *Sarn Helen*, or Helen's Way†. Its direction northward is to the station *Heriri Mons*, called, from a large tumulus near it, *Tommon y Mur*, in the parish of Festiniog. What was the exact course it took between this, and the former station, is not ascertained. The Roman Engineer had to encounter the difficulties, presented to his further progress, by the immense chain of mountains, among which rises pre-eminent the lofty Cadair Idris. Probably it passed the eastern side of the ridge, by Dolgelley, where Roman Coins have been found, and part of the road is discoverable between that place and

* This is published in the Cambrian Register for 1796; in which the road is described under the appellation of *via Flandrensica*, or the Flemings-way. An eminent antiquary, Mr. Fenton, now employed in writing a history of Pembrokeshire, having carefully examined this road, thinks it decidedly of Roman origin.

† This appellation it received according to some writers as a compliment to the wife of the emperor Constantius the twenty-sixth Roman sovereign of Britain. This statement, however, is evidently erroneous, for he did not obtain

and Tradsfynydd, at Pen Sarn or the head of the street. Over the mountainous tract, which separates the counties of Merioneth and Caernarvon it must have entered the latter by the only pass, between Pont-Aber-Glas-lyn to Beddgelert. Mr. Williams in his description of Snowden observes, that there is in the parish of Bettws a farm, called *Ystrad*, or the street, over which the Sarn Helen extends to Llanbublic, in which parish are the ruins of the ancient *Segontium*.

Via Devana *, takes a direction through the centre of the principality, from the southern coast about *Nidus*, Neath, to *Deva*, Chester. Near the former place it is visible, and seen passing over an uncultivated mountainous tract of country by the station Gaer on the small river Ysgyr, to another upon the Ython at Castel Collen in Radnorshire; whence its course was probably in the direction of Maes ar Helen, northward of Castel Duybod, to the station *Caer-Sws*, on the Severn. From this Station the road is in places visible in the parishes of Aberhavesp, Tregynon, Llanwyddelan, Llanlughan, Llanfair, Llanerfil, and its general direction is northerly; but where it found the station *Mcdiolanum*, so called from several roads passing through its centre, is a point difficult to decide. Horsley places it at Draiton in Shropshire, and Gale and Stukeley with greater probability at Meivod or Myfod in Montgomeryshire; but the line of road, so far as hitherto discovered, cannot be traced to that place; and as no iter contains the distances between *Mediolanum* and the two opposite stations, conjecture can obtain little assistance. The last vestiges, which Sir Richard Colt Hoare discovered in his various researches, led him into the vale of Tanad, where if he had found any Roman remains, he
would

tain the imperial dignity till the year 304; and this, as a communication between many of the stations, must have subsisted long anterior to that period. Most probably this name, given to all the remains of ancient roads in Wales, is merely a corruption of *Sarn lleion*, or *Sarn y lleng*, that is, the *legionary* road.

* This is called *Devana* from its communicating with the station *Deva*, and for a similar reason it has received in the interior, the name of *Sarn Swsan*.

would have been inclined to have fixed the questionable station *. From Mediolanum however it certainly extended northwards to *Bovium*, Bangor on the river Dee; and thence to *Deva*, or West Chester.

Via Orientalis. This road took a north-easterly direction from Isca Silurum, or as it is called in the *Iter*, which describes it, *Isca Legionis Secundæ*, to *Uriconium* in Staffordshire, and as far as it was connected with Wales, has been previously described in this work †.

A branch of the *northern Watling-Street* entered Wales at Chester and inclining to the West, passed the station *Varis*, Bodfari, to *Conovium* Caer-hen, near Conway, where bricks inscribed *L. XX. V.V.*, that is, *Legio vicessima victrix*, have been found with other Roman antiquities. Hence ascending the hill by Bwlch y ddyfaen, it went towards the sea, running nearly parallel with the Menai straits to Segontium.

Another branch of the *Southern Watling-street*, extending from *Urioconium* to Segontium enters Wales, near the village of Llandrinio, near which, at a place called *Street*, it is plainly visible; and proceeding to Mediolanum, was there met by the *Via Devana*. Inclining west through the same vale it passed Llangynog by Trum y Sarn to Caer-Gai near Bala; whence it is known under the name of *Sarn hir*, or the long causeway, and crossing the mountains by the opening of Bwlch y Buarth joins the *Via Occidentalis*, already mentioned, at Heriri Mons, and continues with it to Segontium.

Numerous vicinal roads also traversed the country from station to station, vestiges of which are traceable in various places. A road of communication branched off from the *Via Occidentalis* at Penallt, and proceeded easterly to Caer-sws, and is visible between Newtown and Welshpool, in a direction for the large Roman camp called the *Gaer*, near Montgomery.

A road extended northeasterly towards the station, on the river Ython from Llanvair ar y Bryn, between which places it

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* Hoare's *Giraldus*, Vol. I. *Introd.* p. CLX.

† See the *Beauties*, Vol. XI. *Monmouthshire*, p. 6, and Vol. VI. p. 406.

is discoverable on the extensive wastes in the vicinity of Llanrindod Wells.

From *Maridunum* a road leads to *Lorentium*, which is also called Sarn Helen. The construction is evidently Roman, being formed of various stratifications, is about thirty feet wide, and edged with stone. From Caermarthen it is distinctly seen crossing the Pen y Cader mountain, and running in a northeasterly direction to Llanybydder, whence it keeps the southern side of the Tifi or Tivy, crosses the river by a ford at Llanbedr, or Lampeter, where it is visible in the adjoining meadows, steering its course on the northern side towards Pencarreg, in its way to the station at Llanio isa.

Another road may be traced from Llanio, running easterly by Llanvair mountain, and inclining southwest, visits the churchyard of Llanycrwys in Caermarthenshire, where it is visible in two places near the small river Twrch; whence passing through Caio, where are the remains of mines probably worked by the Romans, it goes to Llanvair, ar y Bryn near Llandovery, and thence to the Gaer near Brecknock, and so to the grand station, Glevum, Gloucester.

Some traces of vicinal roads are distinguishable in several places, which are known under the denomination of *Sarn*; and wherever this British word occurs, it is highly probable a Roman road passed near; as Talsarn, Pensarn, and Sarnau in Cardiganshire, which from this circumstance received their names.

Numerous villas, sudatories aqueducts, walls, milliaria or mile stones, statues, votive altars, inscribed stones, tessellated pavements, urns, pottery, bricks, tiles, medals, coins, and various other remains have been discovered, which evidently point out the vestiges of Roman residence, and by which the Romans having occupied the country may be clearly deduced.

When they had been in possession of Britain for nearly five centuries, their empire, grown too unwieldy to preserve its integrity, had long been on the decline; and was now rapidly approaching to its dissolution. Immediately after the death of the emperor Maximus, such a scene of confusion

succeeded in the imperial affairs, that it would occupy too much room to attempt a brief discussion of the discordant accounts given by writers *, respecting the revolutions, and consequent devastations, which happened at that eventful period. The Romans were miserably harrassed on all sides by the surrounding barbarians, and the Britons unable to derive their usual protection from the legionary troops, shared a similar fate. At the period when the invaders bade a final adieu to this island, the country was exposed to the inroads of numerous enemies. Assailed on the north by the Picts and Scots, it was equally infested by the Irish on the West. The native strength of the country had been exhausted in the support of foreign wars; the number of its inhabitants further diminished by famine and pestilence; and the grand bulwark of its safety, the navy, was fallen into decay. Under these disadvantages the people were, also, in want of that unanimity, so essential to become powerful in times of emergency. They had recourse to their ancient form of government, and elected for their governors, certain reguli, or chieftains; but these princes, instead of uniting to oppose the common enemy by well concerted plans of co-operation, and to ward off the impending danger by combined force: were principally occupied in securing their separate interests. It has been remarked by a very judicious writer †, that the great source of the misfortunes, which happened to the Britons, was the political error committed by the Romans, in not making an intire conquest of the island. This had been the design of Julius Agricola, and if Domitian had suffered him to have effected, what he was very near accomplishing, then would the Romans at their departure have left the whole of the inhabitants in a similar, or better condition than what they found them; and of course, by reverting to their aboriginal constitution, they would have been united under one supreme monarch, or Pendragon; and being free from intestine divisions,

they

* Zosimi Historia, Lib. VI. Gildas Historia de Excidio Britanniae, Bede Historia Ecclesiast, lib. I.

† Stillingfleet's, Origines Britannicæ.

they would have found their united strength sufficient to have repelled the attempts of invasion, by any foreign enemy. But enervated by luxury, and weakened by dissensions, they found themselves in a worse state, as to self defence, than on the arrival of Julius Cæsar. In this sad situation without union, order, or discipline, and attacked on all sides by inveterate foes, through infatuation or despair, they adopted the most impolitic of all expedients for national safety, that of calling in the assistance of one barbarous nation, to drive out another; which quickly in the sequel, subjected them to a new and heavier yoke.

Of the melancholy effects, which took place during those times of confusion, and trouble, the British Historians, Gildas and Nennius, indisputable authorities, give ample testimony; and their narratives are not simply relations, but pictures of the period, drawn by men who depict, as though they had been eye witnesses; and seem to speak of the different scenes as though they had both seen and felt, and that in language correspondent to the circumstances they relate.

On the arrival of the new race of settlers, the *Saxons*, besides the many sovereignties into which the island was then divided, a personal competition appears to have existed between one, that tyrannised over the other princes, named Gwtheyrn *, and a chieftain of Roman parentage, called Ambrosius, but by the Welsh, Emrys Wledig, or Emrys the chief. During this contest, to repel the incursions of the Scots and Picts, Gwtheyrn called in the assistance of the Saxons, an army of whom arrived under their leaders Hengist and Horsa, sons of Woden. The Saxon General having driven back the enemy, and discovered the pusillanimity of the British monarch, turned his attention towards establishing his troops, and securing for himself a portion of the territories he had defended: this plan, through the treachery or incapacity of Gwtheyrn, he was enabled to accomplish. The insulted and enraged Britons proceeded to depose the traitorous monarch, and placed Emrys Wledig, on the throne

* By most English writers called Vortigern.

in his stead; who is described as brave, modest, and sincere, and whose parents had worn the imperial purple*. For a time he prevailed against the Saxons, but fresh troops arriving under the command of Ella, they were enabled to become victorious; and to extend their territory. On the death of Emrys, his brother Uther, commonly called, from his office, Pendragon, was elected to the sovereign dignity. The intestine warfare was continued between the Britons and Saxons with varied success; but numerous hordes continually arriving from the northern hive of population, the latter became formidable in several parts of the island. Arthur, the son, and successor of Uther, so celebrated in the annals of fame, though the existence of such a personage has been doubted by some†, and denied by others‡, for a series of years conducted the war against the invaders; and in many desperately-fought battles led on the Britons to decisive victory.

At the time this prince held the Pendragonate, it appears that Wales was divided into two sovereignties, for, by virtue of being chief ruler, he demanded, in the year 518, for the warfare in which he was engaged, the assistance of Caron, king of Scotland; Maelgwyn, the sovereign of North-wales; Meyric, prince of South-wales; and Cador, duke of Cornwall; and at the same time received the support of his nephew Howel, king of Armorica in Gaul||. During this and the late reign the ancient Britons had attained the meridian of their glory, but the period, assigned in the concatenation of events, for the fall of their empire, approximated to a close; though the beams which threw a degree of radiance on its decline, lingered for a time in the west, until gradually receding from the sight, not a single ray was visible in the horizon. The death

* Gildas Hist. Nennius Hist.

† Milton is sceptical upon this point.

‡ Lord Lyttleton's History of Henry II. But for the refutation of both opinions, see the able and unanswerable defence made by Turner, in his History of the Anglo Saxons, Vol. I. p. 101.

|| Warrington's History of Wales, Vol. I. p. 106.

death of Arthur, decided the fate of Britain. The splendour, which had distinguished the preceding era, having principally derived its lustre from the virtue, and the valour of a few individuals, who took the lead in the contest, became clouded by the opposite qualities, so conspicuous in the princes of the subsequent period. The Britons, constrained by necessity to take up arms, were frequently victorious; though their successes are so magnified and accompanied with so much of the marvellous in the detail, as not only to surpass all credibility, but even to render problematical the very existence of the conquerors. And could they have abstained from intestine quarrels, and thoroughly united in the common cause, they might yet have recovered and preserved their country. But this lesson, which prudence dictated, they could not even learn from disastrous experience. So that whenever they obtained the least respite from their foreign foes, they relapsed into civil dissensions; by which they not only exhausted their military strength, but were diverted from adopting the means by which they might have prevented the return of the enemy, and provided for their own security. Arthur had appointed his nephew Constantine, son of Cador, duke of Cornwall, as successor to the pendragonate; and the appointment was confirmed by the elective voice of the people. The Saxons to excite divisions, espoused the cause of the sons of Mordred, the late regent; and while the Britons were settling the dispute, their wily adversaries were rapidly extending the bounds of their empire. During these troubles many of the people submitted to the Saxons, and the Scots; others, to preserve their freedom, fled into distant countries, to Armorica and Bretagne; some retired with their effects into the wilds of Devon and Cornwall; some took shelter in the mountainous part of the north of England; but by far the greatest number found refuge in the fastnesses of Wales; where they defended and preserved their independence, long after the expiration of the Saxon dynasty. At the period, when the latter had conquered the greater part of Britain, and made their approaches to the borders of Cambria, the country appears to

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have

have been divided into six principalities, under so many reguli, and Maelgwyn king of Northwales, was invested with the sovereign dignity, about the year 552. The contest was continued under several succeeding monarchs, till the death of Cadwallader, in the year 703, closed the imperial dignity, which for many centuries had been annexed to the British government; during which time the paramount princes chiefly resided at Diganwy, on the water of Conway, and at Caer Segont near Caernarvon.

Rodric Moelwynoc, nominally succeeded to the sovereignty in 720. By continual and unhappy divisions, the strength of the country was so diminished, as to become unable successfully to resist the incursions of the Saxons. The Mercians, under king Offa, frequently laid waste the country, and at length wrested a portion from the Welsh princes, and to prevent the new occupants from the retaliating vengeance of the Welsh, Offa caused that famous boundary to be made, from the mouth of the river Dee to the Wye, which still goes under the appellation of Clawdd Offa, or Offa's Dyke. By this the region was considerably narrowed, and nearly reduced to its present limits. Though the Saxons made frequent inroads, yet they do not appear to have had any permanent footing in the country; so that, though the page of History relates many sanguinary conflicts which took place between them, and the Welsh, yet scarcely any vestiges remain to mark the incursions of the invaders.

The Danes had called off the attention of the Saxons from the Welsh who from this circumstance were left for many years to enjoy a season of unusual tranquillity. But instead of taking the advantage of this fortunate conjuncture, a fatal plan was adopted, and irreparable measures ensued. Roderic, who succeeded Mervyn to the sovereignty of Wales, in the year 843, divided his dominions into three principalities,* which during his life were governed by chieftains, acting under his authority.

These

* British Antiquities revived by Vaughan of Hengwrt.

These separate sovereignties he left to his three sons. In the year 877, Anarawd became prince of Northwales, called by the Welsh Gwynedd; and the royal residence was at Aberfraw in Anglesea. Cadell received the portion of South Wales, and had his palace at Dinevwr in Caermarthenshire. Mervin possessed Powys-land, and a palace at Mathraval in Montgomeryshire. This division of the country has usually been considered as first made by Roderic. But from a very old treatise still extant of the British laws, it appears, that after the death of Vortipor, or Vortimor, the inhabitants of Venedotia, Powys, and Dimetia, assembled together for the purpose of electing a new king, and that in consequence of the triple choice, Maelgwyn prince of North Wales became their sovereign. To this fact also the British chronicles bear ample testimony. Indeed partition of some kind, in cases where the monarch left more than one son, naturally happened by the ancient law of Gavel-kind*. Little is heard of Wales in history during the Danish dynasty. The Danes made some incursions on the coast, but effected no permanent conquest of the country.

On the accession of William the first to the throne of England, the Welsh, having refused the annual tribute to the crown of London, which had been extorted from them as a mark of submission by king Edgar, the conqueror invaded their country with a powerful army, quickly awed them into submission, obliged them to do homage and take an oath of fealty, as due from vassals to their superior Lord. From this period the English monarchs preferred a claim to Wales, as their heritable property.

On

* A. D. 872. The country of Wales was divided into three kingdoms between the three sons of Rhodri, or Rodric, viz. Cadell the eldest son had Ceredigion and Dyved; Anarawd, the second, had Gwynedd; and Mervyn the third had Powys; leaving the district between the Severn and the Wye, to the descendants of Caradoc Vreichvas, or the brawny arm; and Morganwy with Gwent to the descendants of Morgan the courteous; so that Wales and the nation of the Cymry, became governed by *five royal tribes*. Chronicle of Jevan Brecon, in the Myvyrian Archaeology.

On the death of William the people of Cambria, feeling the galling yoke of their humbled condition, attempted to recover their lost independence, and joining in revolt with some refractory English barons entered England, and by fire and sword carried their devastations to the banks of the Severn. These outrages determined William Rufus to attempt the subjugation of the country, and for this purpose he adopted the principle of Machiavelian policy, "*Divide et impera.*" And an incident happened at this juncture, from a trivial occurrence, which produced such a change in the affairs of South Wales, as was decidedly favourable to the plans of the English monarch, and eventually led to the fall of Cambria. Eineon a Welsh chieftain, having combined with two others in rebellion against Rhys ap Tewder, the king of South Wales, but who by defeat were baffled in their infamous attempt; he saved himself from deserved punishment by flight; and associated himself with Jestyn ap Gwrgaint, lord of Glamorgan, who also was up in arms against his sovereign. Similarity of disposition begat an union of interests, and an agreement was formed between them to this effect; that Justin should give his daughter in marriage to Eineon, on condition that the latter, who had served in the Anglo-Norman armies, should procure, a body of Norman troops to assist in their projected scheme. These were readily furnished by the policy of the English. Robert Fitzhamon, a baron of the realm, with twelve select knights of considerable note, subordinate to his command, undertook the adventure. Having succeeded in the enterprize by completely defeating the king of South Wales, Eineon then demanded of Jestin the fulfilment of the engagement, which the latter refusing, he proceeded to resent such faithless conduct by exciting the Normans to espouse his cause, and avenge his quarrel. This they effectually did, and Jestin was quickly dispossessed of his territories, which the Norman leader parcelled out among his followers, agreeable to the feudal system. Fitzhamon reserving for his own share the principal parts with the seignory of the whole, gave the remainder of Morganwg to the twelve knights*,

knights*, to be held as fiefs under himself; leaving only the barren mountainous parts, as the portion of Eineon. In this manner were the lords of the marches established in Wales; possessing in all cases, except the power of granting pardons for treason, *Jura regalia*.

“The fortunate issue of the late adventure raised among the Norman nobility an ardent spirit of enterprise. The king of England threw powerful temptations in their way; alluring them by motives of interest and power; those strong incentives to human conduct. Several barons petitioned the crown for licence to possess, under homage and fealty, such lands as they might obtain by conquest in Wales. This liberty, given to the English lords of conquering, at their own charge, the territories of the Welsh, though springing out of a wise policy, was apparently grounded on the absurd idea of forfeiture; because that people had renounced the allegiance to which they had through necessity submitted during the operations of Edgar, Harold, and the decisive reign of the Norman conqueror.”* South Wales was soon attacked by these military adventurers. Among the foremost was Bernard de Newmarche, with a train of followers, who subdued and took possession of Brecknockshire. Roger de Montgomery did the king homage for Cardigan; as did also Arnulph, his youngest son, for the great lordship of Pembroke. Nor were the northern parts of the country long secure from the encroaching spirit of the times. The earl of Shrewsbury having paid homage for Powys-land proceeded to subdue that region. Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester, did the same for Englefield

* The castle and manour of Ogmore was given to William de Londres; the lordship of Neath to Richard Greenfield; that of Coyty to Paine Turberville; Llan-Blethyan, to Robert St. Quintine; Talavan to Richard Siward; the castle and manour of Penmark to Gilbert Humfrevile; the castle and manour of Sully to Reginald de Sully; the manour of East Orchard to Roger Berkrolles; that of Peterton to Peter le Soor; that of St. George to John Fleming; that of Fenvon, to John St. John; and the manour of St. Donat, to William le Esterling. See Wynne's History of Wales, p. 115.

* Warrington's Hist. of Wales, Vol. I. p. 371.

field and Rhyvonioc; Ralph Mortimer, for the district of Elvel. Hugh de Lacie, for the lands of Euas, and Eustace; and Cruer, for Mold and Hopedale. In the year 1102, king Henry the First bestowed several other lordships and castles in Wales, on Englishmen, and Normans; and for the purpose of still further breaking the high spirit of the Cambrians, he introduced in the year 1108, into Pembrokeshire, a numerous colony of Flemings. These barons, denominated *lords marchers*, from the old English word *merch*, a boundary, endeavoured to secure their conquests by peopling them with English, and erecting strong fortresses to defend them from the inroads of the Welsh. Thus was the last asylum of the Britons broken into on every side, and invested by their enemies. The principality of South Wales was subdued; Powys, through the defection of its princes, fully in possession of the English; while North Wales, now reduced to Anglesea, Caernarvon, Merioneth, with parts of the counties of Denbigh, and Cardigan, alone preserved the national character, and supported its independence; and the inhabitants, aided by the valour of their princes, still upheld the struggle; and acquiring vigour from union, dictated by necessity, not only prevented the marchers from atchieving further conquests; but rendered their existing acquisitions of precarious tenure.

For a long period did the Welsh, favoured by the mountainous nature of the country, support an unequal, but spirited contest, with their unjust invaders, for a detail of which we must refer to the writers on Welsh affairs, a list of which will be annexed to the present work*. The death of David, who had succeeded

* As several names of Welsh princes will unavoidably occur, in the course of describing the several places in the principality, it may be proper to enumerate those, which succeeded to the government, after the partition of the country by Roderic Mawr. The following is the genealogy of those who reigned in South Wales, ascending upward according to the order of Welsh pedigrees. Rhys, son of Gruffydd; Gruffydd, son of Rhys; Rhys, son of Tewdwr, Tewdwr, son of Eincon; Eincon, son of Howel Dha, or Dha; Howel, son of Cadell; Cadell, son of Roderic the Great. The princes of North

succeeded his unfortunate brother Llewelyn, in the reign of Edward the First, closed the only sovereignty that remained of the ancient British empire ; which, through varied fortune, had opposed the arms of imperial Rome ; and effectually resisted the Saxon and Anglo-Norman efforts for its subjugation through the protracted space of eight centuries. Edward having at length obtained the object of his ambition by the intire conquest of Wales, annexed it to the crown of England.† That Monarch did not however enjoy a tranquil possession ; for three insurrections broke out simultaneously in different places, though, as it afterwards appeared, upon no preconcerted plan, nor directed by any common principle of co-operation. The inhabitants of West Wales took up arms under their leader Maelgwyn Vychan, and carried devastation over the counties of Pembroke and Cardigan. The southern parts revolted under the command of Morgan, a descendant of the lords of Morganwg ; and Madwc, an illegitimate son of Llewelyn was at the head of the insurgents of North Wales. This general revolt commenced with such acts of hostility, as evinced a resolution and inveteracy in the Welsh, that loudly proclaimed the sword alone could terminate the dispute. To such a height did these commotions arrive, that Edward was constrained to conduct the war in person, and from a want of union between the Welsh chieftains, he shortly compelled them to lay down their arms, and make an unqualified submission. These disturbances, the subsequent revolt of Sir Gryffydd Llwyd, and the rebellion of Owen Glyn Dwrddwy, commonly called Glyndore, were the last efforts the Welsh made to recover their lost independence. From that period the concerns of the country

Wales descended from the same ancestor, thus: Llewellyn, son of Jerwerth ; Jerwerth, son of Owen ; Owen, son of Gruffydd ; Gruffydd, son of Conan ; Conan, son of Jago ; Jago, son of Edouel ; Edouel, son of Meiric, or Meirig ; Meiric, son of Anarawd ; Anarawd, son of Mervin ; Mervin, son of Roderic the Great. Anarawd leaving no issue, the princes of Powys have their peculiar descent. Hoare's Giraldus. Vol. II. p. 262.

† This was effected in the year 1284. See the statutes at large. Vol. X. Appendix.

try, till the time of Henry the Seventh, are little interesting;—for the inhabitants were reduced to a state of the severest bondage.* Henry the Seventh from the assistance the Welsh had afforded him in obtaining the crown, the title to which he made out by his descent from Rhys ap Tewdwr, was more favourably inclined towards them, than preceding monarchs; and granted the principality considerable immunities. But still in a national point of view, their state was far from enviable. Several ameliorating statutes were passed in the reign of Henry the Eighth to exonerate them from the tyrannical oppressions of the lords-marchers; and at length the people, awake to their true interest, solicited the king to give his liberal designs a more salutary effect, by extending to them all the privileges of the English jurisprudence. The prayer of their petition was granted, and Wales was formally united and incorporated with England.*

During centuries this country was the theatre for the display of the most heroic courage and conspicuous martial prowess, ever exhibited to the world; and while it made a bold and continued stand for liberty, unexampled in the annals of man; opportunities occurred of learning the art of fortification, and necessity would impel the natives, equally with their assailants, to bring it into use to the most powerful extent. Wales therefore abounds with the remains of encampments, lines of circumvallation, strong holds, hill-fortresses, castles, and castellated mansions; specimens of *military architecture* therefore in the diversified styles of different and distant periods constitute some of the most prominent and very interesting features in the artificial part of its picturesque scenery. While the Romans generally chose for the site of their camps or forts, a rising ground near some river, or a *lingula*, formed by the confluence of two; the Britons selected the most lofty, insulated, and least accessible mountains, the summits of which they fortified by excavating deep

* See statutes at large, 27th Henry VIII. c. 26, & 34, 35, of Henry VIII. c. 26.

* See statutes at large, in the reigns of Henry the Fourth, and Henry the Sixth.

deep trenches in the solid rock, adding valla by heaping up the loose stones, dug out of the fosses; and in succeeding times, by adding strong walls, and erecting massy circular towers, with other bastion works of defence. Among the former, may be classed, Moel Arthur, and Moel y Gaer, in Flintshire. The Gaer, near Montgomery; Trer-Caeri, and Dinas, in Caernarvonshire; with Carn Madryn, Pen y Crag, and Pen y Parc, in the county of Brecon. Of the latter description, are Dolbadern, and Penmanmawr, in Caernarvonshire; Caergwrle, in Flintshire; Craig y Dinas, in Merionethshire; Carreg Cennin, in Caermarthenshire; and Castle Coch, in Glamorganshire, with numerous others, which will be noticed in the course of this work.

The Normans introduced a new and more magnificent style of military fortification;—and to secure their unjustifiable seizures, and proceed in their sanguinary aggressions, they were obliged to erect castles more formidable, both in number and extent, so that what are termed the marches of Wales, consist of one broad line of massy fortresses from the mouth of the Dee to the embouchure of the Wye. Flint, Denbigh, Montgomery, Powys, Brecknock, Caerphili, and Caerdiff furnish bold examples of the style at that period. More were erected by the Anglo-Normans as they progressively encroached on the country; for to secure the possessions they conquered from the retaliating vengeance of the expelled owners, they were necessitated to repair and strengthen the fortresses they took, or build others. Thus did this kind of buildings so far increase, that Mr. Pennant enumerates one hundred and forty-three castles in the principality; and the number is probably short of the actual amount. On the conquest of Wales by Edward the First, that monarch, who had been crusading in the holy land, and there imbibed a spirit for eastern magnificence, for the purpose of overawing his new but refractory subjects, constructed three castles in a style, which for strength, beauty, and grandeur, have never yet been surpassed. Harlech, Caernarvon, and Conway, remain the proud monuments of the Cambrian conqueror's footsteps, and

the finest display ever evinced of skill and execution, in military architecture.

CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT, and LAWS. From the accounts given by the Roman writers, a monarchical form of *government* was prevalent among the early Britons. The island was divided into several petty sovereignties, each subject to a separate prince; but in time of emergency and danger were united in one, under an officer similar to a dictator among the Romans, called a *Pendragon*. To him by joint consent was committed the whole military government of the independent tribes. Nor was this dignity temporary, like the power, for though the latter appears to have ceased with the necessity that demanded it, yet the former continued for life, and was hereditary to the male heir.* But the right of succession to the separate governments does not seem to have been strictly indefeasible; for, in some instances, the lineal succession was violated by the rule of *tanistry*. By this the king's son, brother, or nephew, became the customary inheritor of the crown; the particular person being selected by the reigning monarch, with the advice of his nobles. This sovereign elect, was denominated by the law, the *tanist*, or the second in dignity. No power, but the regal, could either enact or abrogate a law; yet the king could effect neither without the consent of the country. And this maxim, on which is founded the fair structure of popular liberty, is expressly recorded in the institutions of Wales. The Britons were not unacquainted with that rational restraint upon monarchical despotism, parliamentary suffrage. It is highly probable, that the constitution of all the British states in the period of confusion which followed the evacuation of the island by the Romans, was not exactly the same; but that some of their princes enjoyed greater powers and privileges than others; still it is evident, that none were despotic: for a decisive argument in favour of the existence of British parliaments, is found in the preface or introduction to the *laws* of the great Cambrian legislator,

* Taciti Annales. Lib, XII. c. 33. Cæsar de Bell. Gall. Lib. IV. c. 30. and Lib. V. c. 19, 20, 22.

lator, HOWEL Dda.† Six of the most intelligent and powerful persons were summoned out of every Cantref, or hundred, to assist the king in the great work of legislation. This parliament having been assembled, they proceeded to examine the ancient laws, cancelled some, reformed others, enacted new ones, and digested all into one regular code of jurisprudence. This revision they presented to good king Howel, which he having approved, gave the ratifying sanction of royal authority. Both the monarch and parliament then proceeded to imprecate the power of the state and the wrath of Heaven upon any who should violate, or attempt to abrogate any of these institutes, unless they should be constitutionally annulled in a national council, similar to the one in which they had recently been discussed. The origin of laws must have been nearly coeval with society, and evidently from the circumstances of this revision, many of those in the code of Howel Dda were pre-existent statutes, by which the early Britons had been regulated in previous times. For in the Triades,* Dynswal, Prydain and Hywel are mentioned, as the three good princes of Britain for improving and extending the laws, customs, privileges and uses of the Cymry; so that all might obtain equal justice and protection. From these it appears, that immediately below the sovereign, ranked the *Uchelwys*, or great men, holding their lands *in capite* from the crown, and each presiding as lord over his particular domain. As immediate tenants of the king they were obliged to perform certain services. Some held their lands by a tenure, similar to the grand serjeantry among the Normans, by an obligation

† This work, magnificently printed in folio, is entitled, *Cyfreithjen Hywel Dda ac eraill, seu Leges Wallicæ Ecclesiasticæ et civiles Hoeli boni, et aliorum Walliæ principum, quas ex variis codicibus manuscriptis eruit interpretatio Latina, notis et glossario illustravit Gulielmus Wottonus, S. T. P. adjuvante Mose Guilielmo, A. M. R. S. Sec. qui et Appendicem adjecit. Londini MDCCXXX.*

* These called "The Triades of the Isle of Britain," are some of the most useful and curious historical fragments in the Welsh language, and are denominated triades, from being composed in triplets.

tion of personal attendance on the king's court ; but the majority retained their estates by the *gwaeth milwyr*, or military service, being bound on summons to attend their sovereign with a certain number of men in arms, and follow him to the war ; to aid in the repair of the royal castles ; and were also assessed with certain stated rents, payable in money, or kind. For one knight's fee, usually comprising about a thousand acres of land, the possessor was obliged to remit to the royal palace in the autumn, one horse-load of wheat, ground into flour, one ox, a barrel of mead, nine palms long, and eighteen broad, or in lieu, two of braget, or four of common ale, a hundred and sixty-eight equal threaves of oats for the stable, a three year old sow, a salted gammon of bacon, three inches thick ; and a pot of butter, in length and breadth three palms. On failure of delivery of these rations at the appointed time, the uchelwyr was mulcted a pound and twenty-four pence. Under this reserve of tribute the lands were inheritable by the family.

Inferior to these, and holding from them as feudatory lords were the general mass of the community, being in a condition like Cæsar describes the Gauls to have been, a state of villainage. These were however divided into two classes. First, such as might retain or relinquish their lands at discretion, possessed the power of buying and selling, and whose seignorial service was the least degrading of the menial kind. The other denominated *Caeths*, were considered the property of the lord, attached to the soil, and saleable with the estate. These were bound to services the most servile, and least determinate, to build or repair houses for the uchelwyr, and perform all the drudgeries of husbandry. Both were subject like the chiefs to military attendance in time of war, and to contributions in money, or kind ; and were necessarily subject to additional impositions.

Such were the tenures of lands in Wales prior to the English customs being transplanted into the country, as appears by the laws of Howel Dda, not formed by him, but referable to previous institutes, ascribed to the early Britons. And as they were evidently feudal in their essence and military in their design,

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the opinion of antiquaries, who deduced the introduction of a system of feuds into this island from the Normans, must be erroneous; for the laws in which it is found to have existed in Wales were collected into a digest, in the early part of the tenth century.* These laws may be divided into three grand portions. Firstly, those which relate to the organization and regulation of the king's household. Secondly, those respecting the affairs of the commonwealth. Thirdly, such as relate to the special customs belonging to particular places, and persons. "The laws and ordinances of Howel Dha, the Honble. Daines Barrington observes, are the most regular of any extant, and have been wonderfully preserved, considering their antiquity; but though there are many provisions in them dictated by wisdom and sound policy, there are some which it is impossible to peruse without a smile, and others which should not be passed without censure." The most prominent features in the Howellian code is the law of inheritance, denominated *gavel kind*†, by which the property was divided among the sons, the females of every degree being excluded till the utter extinction of the males; among whom no distinction was made betwixt the spurious, and legitimate. While the Welsh preserved their independence, this law of descent, every where prevailed; but on the conquest of the country by king Edward the First, he directed certain commissioners to inquire upon oath into all the former laws, and usages of the principality, and the first law promulgated by that monarch for the use of Wales, was the celebrated *statute of Rhyddlan*. By this he permitted the ancient stem to continue in its native soil; but lopped off two of its principal branches, viz. the admission of spurious offspring to the inheritance, and the preclusion of females. But by the 34th and 35th of Henry the Eighth, the venerable trunk was for ever levelled with the ground, all the lands in Wales having been required "to be holden as English tenure to all intents;" since

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which

* A. D. 926, the work commenced, and was completed about A. D. 930.

† It was called in British, *Gafael linead*, the family estate, or tenure.

which period the laws of England, with the exception of a few formal peculiarities, have continued to form the jurisprudence of Cambria.*

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY, RELIGION, MANNERS AND CUSTOMS. The *religion* of the Britons, when Cæsar first visited the Island, was of a kind peculiar to them, and the cognate tribes of Gaul. It abounded with singular tenets, and the mode of worship comprised numerous superstitious rites, the remaining vestiges of which form some of the most interesting antiquities of the country. *Bardism*, or the *Druidical* system † as it is generally called, has by different writers been variously represented: and the term *bardd*, or *bard*, given to the Welsh poets who were not of the Bardic order, has tended to increase the confusion on the subject. What may be considered, as the foundation of the order was the principle of universal benevolence, so that a bard was prohibited by his tenets from bearing arms; and recognised as the herald of peace, under the title of *Bardd ynys Prydain*, he could pass, when clad in his unicoloured azure robe, unmolested from one hostile country to another. A second general principle was the investigation of truth; and a third, was the perfect equality of its members. Leading considerations also among the Bards, were the publicity of their actions, all their *Gorseddau* or meetings being held in the open air, in a place, set apart by a circle of stones with one in the centre, called *Cylc Cyngrair*, or the circle of federation; and the invention of an oral record, by which the

Bardic

* For a full account of the ancient Welsh laws, see the code of Howel Dda, already mentioned. And for the present mode of conducting legal business, Foley's Practice of the Court of Great Sessions, in South Wales.

† Druidism, Mr. Owen observes, is a mistake, by giving the appellation of a particular branch to the whole of the order; for as a matter of convenience, an appropriate set of Bards, were distinguished by the name of *derwydden*, or Druids, to give notoriety and discriminate visibility to the religious functionaries. See a sketch of Bardism, prefixed to a translation of the works of Llywarc Hen, by William Owen, from which many of these remarks have been selected, compared with other authorities. To the labours of which Gentleman, the lovers of Cambrian literature are deeply indebted.

Bardic traditions were delivered down to posterity; which for the purpose were recited twice a year in their general assemblies by the *dadceiniaid* or reciters*. The bards were divided into three classes, the *Bard braynt*, *Derwydd*†, and *Ovydd*: and the disciples, or candidates for the Bardic order, were denominated the *Awenyddion*. These three classes formed the national college, and its members, on admission assumed one or other of these distinctions. To the *bards braynt* or proper, belonged the perpetuation of the customs and privileges of the system, and also, of its moral and civil institutes. The *Derwyddon*, or Druids were the priests, who officiated in things pertaining to religion, from which circumstance, and the great influence they had over society, this class became the most conspicuous. *Ovyddon*, or the Ovates more particularly attended to the cultivation of the arts and sciences. The Theology, or tenets of the bards may be in a great degree collected from what Cæsar, Tacitus, and other Roman writers have advanced, compared with the maxims, preserved in the British *Triades*. Whence it will appear, their religion bore considerable affinity to that of the Patriarchal age, which it is highly probable therefore, was the fountain, or source from whence the doctrines and rites origi-

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*Some have ignorantly asserted, that the Bards, or Druids, were unacquainted with the use of letters; but Cæsar asserts the contrary; and the learned author of the Welsh Dictionary observes, “ that their original alphabet is yet extant. It contains thirty-six letters, sixteen of which are radical, and the rest are mutations of those; and it is the only one adequate to convey all the sounds of the Welsh language, without using double characters. It is singular, that the Bardic alphabet should contain all the *Etruscan* letters, without the least deviation of form, except four or five in the latter, which are Roman.”

† The derivation of this term has been by some writers, supposed to be from the British word *derw* an oak, on account of the veneration paid by the Druids to that tree. But a more emphatic etymology is that of Mr. Owen. “ The word *Derwydd* implies one set before, or in presence of. I am aware some have rendered it oak-man, but the oak was called *derw* for the same reason, as the priest was called *derwydd*, from its being consecrated wood, and both derived from *dâr*.”

nally flowed. The Bards believed in one creator and governor of the universe, pervading all space, and their conception of his existence was, that the substance of deity cannot be material, and what is not matter must be God. The world, though subject to numerous revolutions from the elements of water and fire, they considered of permanent duration. The soul they supposed, pre-existed in a state of gradual advancement by transmigration, and that it was immortal: but their ideas of the Metempsychosis, did not extend to the degree it does among the Bramins of India, so as to prohibit the depriving any creature of life: for it was allowable to destroy such as were directly, or eventually might become, destructive to man. After many transmigratory changes, according to the moral turpitude or filthiness the soul had acquired by sin, it arrived at a state in which evil never could have the ascendancy, and yet it might return again to a state of second manhood, and the return of such a benign soul, was considered a blessing to the world. Propitiary sacrifices formed part of the Bardic religion, as it did of most others, whether pure or corrupt, which have prevailed throughout the world. And after all that has been advanced by Borlase * and others to exonerate the Britons from the charge of offering up on their sanguinary altars, *human* victims; truth evidently demands the admission of the horrid doctrine †. If the country was in danger from enemies, numbers of its inhabitants were suffering by disease, or any calamity befel it, which indicated the divine anger, the deity must be appeased by offering human beings, as sacrifices on his altars. They thought that the life of man could only be redeemed from punishment, but by his fellow creature's

* Antiquities of Cornwall.

† Vestiges of the custom remain to the present day, and a curious specimen of it is still afforded in the usages of some parts of Wales. When a violent disease breaks out amongst the horned cattle, the farmers of the district, where it rages, join to give up a bullock for a victim, which is carried to the top of a precipice, from whence it is thrown down. This is called. "*Bwrw caeth i gythraul*," casting a captive to the devil.

ture's life, and that no other mode existed to deprecate the wrath, and conciliate the favour of God. Thieves, robbers, and other criminals were the usual sacrifices, but in case of a deficiency of such to offer, the innocent were doomed to suffer. At these gloomy rites the Druids administered. And women destitute of clothing, having their skin tinged with a dark hue, acted as sibyls on the occasion, consulting heaven on futurity, by inspecting the quivering entrails of the proffered victims*. But this was not peculiar to the Britons, few of the nations of antiquity were free from this foul blot in their escutcheon; and even our Saxon ancestors, till converted to christianity, were in the habit of offering up human sacrifices to their god Woden, and numerous other imaginary deities†.

The ancient world, inclusive of the most enlightened nations, as they were termed, were universally impressed with a belief in magical powers. But from several observations of Pliny it may clearly be deduced, that this mischievous imposture was peculiarly cultivated by the British Druids. "Britain he observes, now celebrates magic in such an astonishing manner, and with such numerous ceremonies, that she might be imagined to have been the instructress of the Persians." The Druids were indeed so superior in knowledge and intellect to the rest of the inhabitants, that their magical frauds must have been easily invented, and securely practised: and Wisardim in such hands, a powerful engine to overawe and cajole the great mass of the people. The same author informs us, that their superstitious fancies considered the missletoe sacred, if it vegetated from the oak. On the sixth day of the moon, which was the commencement of their months, years, and chronological cycle of thirty years, they visited the oaken

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groves;

* The British sibyl, like Dido, is described by Virgil,

Ante ora deum pingues spatiat ad aras,

Instauratque diem donis, pecudumque reclusis

Pectoribus inhians, spirantia consulit eata.

Æneid IV. L. 62.

† Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, Vol. I. p. 18.

groves; and if they came to a tree on which they perceived any of the parasitical plant, they prepared a sacrifice under the venerated object, to which they led two white bulls, whose horns were then first tied to the altar. The officiating Druid, clad in white, climbed the tree, and with a golden hook pruned off the Mistletoe, which was ceremoniously received in a white woollen cloth by the priests below. They then proceeded to offer up their victims, and addressed their Gods to render it a means of prosperity to the persons to whom it was presented on the occasion: for they believed that it produced fecundity, and was an amulet against the most virulent poison. Without the leaves or branches of the oak, they performed no ceremonies whatever; for which purpose they selected groves of this pride of the forest, for their places of worship, and considered every thing connected, with the consecrated tree, was sent from heaven *.

“ Midst rocks and wastes the grove tremendous rose :
 O'er the rude altars hung in dread repose
 A twilight pale ; like the dim sickly noon,
 When the mid-sun retires behind the moon.
 From sounding caverns rushed the darksome flood ;
 Each antique trunk was stained with human blood.
 'Twas sung, that birds in terror fled the shade ;
 That lightnings harmless round the branches play'd ;
 And in the hour of fate, the central oak
 Shook with the spirit of the God, and spoke.
 The Roman check'd awhile his conquering band,
 And dropt the imperial eagle from his hand ;
 And seem'd while shuddering borne through Mona's wood,
 To tread the confines of the Stygian flood †.”

The Bards do not appear to have had, like many other pagan priests, mythological fables to veil and personify their religion; but their institutes, and every kind of knowledge, relative to their system, was retained wholly by tradition, in aphorisms,

* Pliny Lib. XVI. c. 95.

† Richards's Aboriginal Britons

risms, poems, and adages of a peculiar cast. For the preservation of these, one grand plan was, the holding a Gorsedd, or general meeting, where they were recited by those appointed to commit them to memory. The regular times for holding a Gorsedd were the two solstices and equinoxes; and subordinate meetings also, for the instruction of disciples, might be convened at the new, and full moon. The ceremony used on the opening of a meeting, was the sheathing of a sword on the *maen gorsedd* *, at which the presiding bards attended, and the ceremony was accompanied with a brief pertinent discourse. When the business of the meeting was finished, it was closed by the taking up the sheathed sword, and giving a concluding exhortation, then all covered their heads and their feet, and the assembly was dismissed †.

Mr. Owen supposes, that the reason of the Britons having embraced christianity with more openness than any other nation was, the Bardic being less repugnant than other pagan systems, to the doctrines of the gospel; and that the functions of the christian priesthood continued to be exercised exclusively, by the different orders of Bards amongst the Cymry, till the arrival of Germanus and Lupus about the commencement of the fifth century. But it must be evident by comparison, that the principles of the two institutions are utterly incompatible, and the gross superstitions of the former must have been expunged by the introduction of the latter. Yet it is certain that a schism in the order, did take place at an early period. A prince of the name of Beli or Belus, formed a new code of regulations, in which it is probable, their right to the christian priesthood was either denied, or not acknowledged. The Bards of an accommodating disposition, complied with the

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innovations,

* This was the altar stone, placed in the centre of a Gorsedd, denominated by most antiquaries a *cromlech*, which not being found in ancient British manuscripts is a name unfairly obtruded upon the public.

† It appears probable, that from the Bardic ceremonies, conjurers, and magicians have borrowed their circles, wands, and gesticulations, to give their pretended spells an air of mystery.

innovations, while others attached to the ancient system, would refuse being guided by any other laws, than the public traditions of the Gorsedd. From that era the *Beirdd Ynis Prydain*, the genuine British Bards, formed a small dissenting sect, and at the fall of the last Llewelyn, Bardism, had very near been totally annihilated. The provincial chair, or Gorsedd of Glamorgan, however, at the request of the lords marchers and other powerful families, appointed the most intelligent Bards of the time to collect together, and digest every particular relating to the order. Of the congresses, convoked by those authorities, the first was under the patronage of Sir Richard Neville in the beginning of the fifteenth century. A subsequent one was held at Caerdiff castle, in the year 1570, under the auspices of William Herbert, earl of Pembroke; another in 1580 under the direction of Sir Edward Lewis of the Van; and lastly, a revisal of all the former collections was made by Edward Davydd, which received the sanction of a Gorsedd, convened at Bewpyr in the year 1681, by the authority of Sir Richard Basset, where the above collection was pronounced to be the fullest illustration of the ancient Bardic system. From that time to the present, a remnant of the order has obscurely existed in that part of Wales, where those meetings were held, and an attempt has lately been made to revive the institution.

Respecting those who embraced the new regulations, the peculiarities of the order merged in the profession of christianity, for they continually submitted to whatever rules were laid down for their conduct, by the christian princes, who, at the time governed the country. Modifications of the Bardic rules took place under king Arthur, in the sixth century; alterations were again made in the eleventh century, by Gruffyd ab Cynan king of Wales; and an incoherent jumble of jarring principles were adopted by a congress, held at Caermarthen, towards the middle of the fifteenth century. The persons, who embraced these new laws were called by the primitive Bards in derision, *Beirdd*, *Beli*, and *Over-beirdd*, that is, *Beli's Bards*,

Bards, or pseudo-Bards. However, the latter appear to have been held in the highest estimation among the people; because they were not inimical to the clergy, nor their tenets in opposition to the established religion. They however, now appeared in a different character, being encouraged by princes and great men, as historians, heralds, poets, minstrels, and reciters of martial songs, to excite the youth to deeds of arms, and record the heroes, who fell in battle. The earliest record of these, is in the reign of Cadwalader, who died at Rome A. D. 688, and had previously presided at an *Eisteddfod**, or congress of Bards. During the reign of Howel Dda, in the tenth century, the Bards were held in high estimation, and enjoyed great and peculiar privileges, their persons were held sacred, and a heavy fine, one hundred and twenty six cows, levied on the person, who killed one. If a Bard wanted to ask a favour of royalty, he must previously perform upon the harp, one of his own compositions. He preceded the army, when prepared for battle, reciting an ancient song called *Unbenaeth, Prydain*, or the monarchical song of Britain. Bleddyn ab Cynvyn, prince of Powys established some regulations, respecting the Bards in his principality, about the year 1070: and Gruffydd ab Cynan, prince of North Wales reformed the disordered behaviour of the Welsh minstrels, by a wholesome statute, extant to the present day. At that time there existed three kinds of minstrels in Wales. The first denominated *Beirdd*, or the makers of songs, who, also kept records of gentlemen's arms, and pedigrees. Second, the performers on musical instruments, as the harp, crowth, pibgorn, &c. These were called *telyniawru*. The third were the *datceinioid* or the reciters, persons who accompanied with the voice, the instruments played upon by others. The character of Edward the First, has been generally blackened, both by historians and poets, as having issued a cruel edict for the extermination of the Bards; but this opinion appears to have been adopted

* The *Eisteddfod* was a triennial assembly of the Bards, usually held in routine at the three royal seats of the Welsh princes, viz. Aberfraw, Dinevwr, and Mathra-val.

adopted without sufficient foundation * Carte, who has been followed by others, says, that monarch “ordered them all to be hanged, as inciters of the people to sedition.” But if such an edict was issued, observes a writer, it was probably in *terrorem*; for it does not appear, that it was ever put fully in execution, otherwise cotemporary writers, and those who lived in the immediate following ages would in some way or other, have noticed the sanguinary event. The fact, however, of the Bards assuming fictitious names, in which they issued their literary productions, shews they must have been under some apprehension; which was not allayed by the severe statutes, enacted against the Welsh, in the time of Henry the fourth †. Yet Sir John Wynne, who has indulged in a similar opinion, observes of the latter reign, “Sithence this kind of people were at some further libertie to sing and keep pedegrees, as in ancient time they were wont; since which we have some light of antiquitie, by their songes and writings ‡.”

A celebrated Eisteddfod or congress, was held at Caermarthen about the year 1450, against which the synod of primitive Bards of Glamorgan, protested as totally subversive of the ancient institutions. Indeed this, and other similar meetings held in North Wales, were simply assemblies of poets and minstrels, under a few common and indispensable regulations, for the purpose of preserving and perpetuating their
national

* The assertions respecting the cruelty of that monarch towards the Welsh Bards are groundless, as it is a fact, that from the time of Edward, till the reign of Elizabeth, the productions of the Bards were so numerous, that Mr Owen Jones, in forming a collection for that period, has already transcribed between fifty and sixty volumes in quarto, and the work is not yet completed. See Hoares's *Giraldus* Vol. II. p. 305.

† The mysterious institution, under the denomination of free masonry, with the various distinctions of the different lodges, all subject to the grand lodge of England, is evidently a relic of Bardism. And it is highly probable, that on the privileges being granted to certain foreign artisans for the encouragement of ecclesiastical building, as a corporate company of free masons; the proscribed Bards adopted the distinction, and under it sheltered their, otherwise illegal, assembling to perpetuate their order.

‡ History of the Gwydir family.

national music and poetry. Of this kind was an Eisteddfod, held in the fifteenth year of Henry the Eighth at Caerwys in Flintshire, in which the ancient laws, respecting this sect of Bards were confirmed, and many members admitted into the society, and to their degrees. A similar meeting, though not by royal authority, was convened at the same place, and similar ceremonies were performed at the late jubilee.

Of the religion among the primitive Bards or Druids, we have many monuments remaining in various parts of the island, particularly in Cornwall, and Wales. And though their most magnificent temples, appear to have been those of Stonehenge, and Avebury, in the county of Wilts; yet numerous vestiges of their gloomy superstition lie scattered over the face of the country. These consist first of large rude *unsculptured, upright stones*, standing single, or in some instances two or three together, which by many have been considered as merely landmarks, or tokens of demarcation between different districts, or seignories. But allowing this to have been the case respecting some; yet the circumstances which accompany others, are calculated to induce a belief, that they were erected for other purposes, and were intended as stones of memorial, or notices, commemorative of some signal event; as the signing a solemn covenant, entering into, an amicable truce, or as a grateful tribute to the valour and the virtue of a chieftain, slain in battle. Mr. Rowlands is of opinion, such rude stones were objects of idolatrous worship, as the sculptured images of the heathen Gods, were in more refined ages. "These rude erected pillar-stones, though at first, perhaps set up for good and warrantable purposes might, and we may well believe, did, become afterward in these countries, (as we find the like sort of pillars to have been in other countries about Syria and Palestine) the objects of idolatrous worship*." Those denominated *logan*, or the rocking stones, from one stone being so nicely poised upon another, as to be moveable
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* *Mona Antiqua*, p. 52.

with the slightest touch, were evidently instruments of religious charlatancy in the hands of the druids, and objects of superstitious veneration in their deluded followers.

Secondly of *Cromlecheu* *, or cromlechs, as they have been usually called, which are formed by one vast flat stone, laid in a position nearly horizontal on three, four, or five upright stones, as supporters. These some writers suppose were only monumental trophies, sacred to the memory of considerable personages, particularly the druids, and that they constitute the prototypes in a rude, of the better executed tombs in the present refined age. But though a few are found unaccompanied with any other vestiges, indicative of their designation and use, yet many are included in those Bardic circles, which are allowed to have been appropriated to druidical worship; and consequently appear to have been the altars on which were offered up the victims, devoted in sanguinary sacrifice. These *Meini hirian*, or British temples, consist of one circle, or two or three concentric circles of rude stones, vertically placed a few yards distant from each other, with single stones, as a kind of direction pillars to the principal entrance, and generally a cromlech in the centre. Several of these, though not of equal extent, with either Avebury, or Stonehenge; yet from their situation, and as the remains of such a singular mode of worship, as that of the ancient Britons, are objects gratifying to the eye of inquisitive curiosity. Such are Bryn y vowel, near Penmaen mawr, Caernarvonshire, Bwlch Crangwen near Clenneny, and one at Nevern in the same county; Cerrig Bradyn on the summit of Cadair Idris, and Cors y gedol, Merionethshire; Kil y maen Llwyd, Caermarthenshire; and Llancoedmore, Caerdiganshire; with numerous others, which will be noticed in the course of the work.

Though these, according to many, were appropriated to religious worship, yet other opinions have been formed, which it would appear like partiality to pass over unnoticed. Some have supposed

* From *crwm* & *tech*, the crooked or inclined stone.

supposed, that they were places set apart for political purposes, such as the electing kings or governors, holding assemblies for making or promulgating laws, and for the distribution of public justice. By others they have been viewed, simply, as stones systematically erected for the commemoration of great or signal events. A few have suggested, that their use was for performing religious dances and those circumgyrations alluded to in the poets and the writers of Romance; or more probably for the exhibition of public games and festive spectacles. From circumstances however apparent in the construction of some of these singular monuments, they seem designed for astronomical observations. The druids were skilled in that sublime science, and appear to have mingled it with their religious rites, and made it an engine to support superstition. Their temples therefore assumed a geometrical form, particular stones near the entrance being placed to face the cardinal points, or only deviating so far, as, may be accounted for from the variation of the needle, or equinoctial procession.

Carnedds and *barrows*, are nearly if not strictly allied with the bardic system. The former consist of heaps of loose stones thrown together, and the latter of earth covered with turf, and on opening, in both have been discovered cistvaen or stone coffins. Of this kind, instances occur near Plas Newydd in Anglesea; between Dolgelly and Tanybwllch in Merionethshire; On the top of Plinlimmon, Montgomeryshire in the parish of Trelech, Caermarthenshire; and at Barrow hill near Ruthin, Denbighshire. Of their designation as places of sepulture there cannot exist a doubt, since their contents have afforded demonstration; but a difference of opinion has arisen as to what period, or people they should be ascribed. From Roman coins, urns, and other remains found in or near them, they have been supposed the burial places of some imperial generals. But as hydrotaphia, or urn-burial, was the custom among the Romans, and interment the practice of the Britons, it is reasonable to conjecture, where such insignia have been discovered, the tumuli are the sepulchres of some British chief-

tains who fell in the Roman service. Mr. Rowland, however, contends, that the Carnedden, or larger heaps of stones, “are the remains and monuments of ancient sacrifices, the positive rites of religion and worship at those times,” and alludes to the patriarchal custom mentioned in the scriptures, and the ancient way of paying adoration to Mercury. But the opinion of their being sepulchral, is the least objectionable, and the present custom in Wales, when any unhappy wretch, who has committed *felo de se*, is buried in biviis, or the cross roads, of passengers continuing to throw stones upon the place of interment, till by this means they have accumulated a considerable heap, is evidently a vestige of the original British practice. The ceremony in saying “*Karn ar dy ben*,” or ill betide thee, on casting each stone, is no objection; because after the introduction of christianity, the pagan kind of sepulture would consequently come into disrepute; and what was once a mark of distinction, be converted into a disgrace.

From many of the British monuments having been destroyed by the barbarous rage of the Saxon invaders, it is difficult to determine whether *Christianity* was established by the divine mission of the apostles, and their first disciples, or by the pious labours of succeeding missionaries. From the want of authentic records, a darkness is thrown over this eventful period, and the truth is still further obscured in the legendary fables of monkish superstition. The dawn of the appearance of this lovely stranger in the British isles is discovered in the conversion of Lleirwg, called by the Romans Lucius, prince of the Silures, and nominal king of Britain, who reigned at the latter end of the second century. Having embraced the Christian faith he formed the noble design of diffusing the blessing over the whole of his dominions; and for the patriotic purpose sent ambassadors to Rome to solicit of Eleutherius, twelfth bishop of that see, able divines to instruct the people in the mysteries of this religion. The king's request was cheerfully complied with by the pious prelate, who sent Fagan, Dyvan or Damian, Elvan and Medway for accomplishing the holy purpose; and

the first Christian church appears to have been built at Landaff, under royal privilege and protection. By the zeal and industry of these evangelists, the Britons generally were induced to embrace the gospel; and the Christian institution received considerable strength and union, by being reduced under a regular establishment. For this prince is said to have formed his plan of church government upon the model of paganism, converting the heathen temples into places of Christian worship*, and dividing the national church into three ecclesiastical provinces; each of which was a metropolitan see, and the residence of an archbishop. One of these was Caerleon on Usk, and the province comprised the whole of Wales. At the same time that Christianity acquired this degree of regularity, a school for religious learning was established at Bangor-iscoed in Flintshire, which for a time became the great seminary of knowledge to the province of Cambria.

From that period to the Diocletian persecution, including an interval of eighty years, the ecclesiastical history of Britain is unknown; but from the concurring testimonies of Tertullian, Origen, Gildas, and Bede, there is sufficient reason to believe, that Christianity made a gradual, if not a rapid progress. But during the continuance of that scourge, which proved nearly fatal to the Christian cause, the church of Britain shared in the deep and general calamity. This country afforded numerous martyrs to the truth, and amongst those of Wales, the name of Aaron and Julius stand eminently conspicuous. In the reign of Constantine the Great, Christianity flourished over the Roman world, and more especially was it fostered in this Island, reputed the birth place of that emperor. In the year 314, a council was assembled at Arles, at which several British bishops assisted†; soon after North Wales is said to have been converted to Christianity, by the exertions of Kebius Corinnus, son of Sampson, Duke of Cornwall, who was constituted bishop
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* Bede Eccles. Hist. Gulfrid. Monmouth, Lib. V.

† These were the archbishops of London, York, and Caerleon.

of Anglesea *. Subsequent to this, the British church, which had been remarkable for the strict adherence to the genuine doctrines of the gospel, had its peace destroyed by the followers of the notorious schismatic Morgan, a Cambrian divine, better known under the latinized denomination of Pelagius. By the determination of a council held by the Gallician church, St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre, with Lupus bishop of Troyes, was sent over to this country to prevent the spread of the contagious tenets. These prelates observing, that the evil had arisen in a great measure from the ignorance of the clergy, recommended the erecting collegiate institutions for the instruction of those, designed for holy orders. Two most eminent ones on that occasion were established; one at Henllan, and the other at Mochros, in South Wales, under the immediate direction of St. Dubricius; who had distinguished himself by his able refutation of the Pelagian errors, and become so famous for his learning and piety, that numbers from all parts of the island were placed under his tuition. Illutus, or St. Ilted, was placed at the head of several schools, which were of great repute, and among his disciples were numbered Gildas, and Daniel, afterwards Bishop of Bangor. Paulinus founded a school at Ty-gwyn in Caermarthenshire, under whom studied St. David. Another school was founded at Llanearvan in Glamorganshire; to which may be added the celebrated monastery, previously noticed of Bangor-iscoed in Flintshire.

Those seminaries were monuments of the pious labours of St. Germain, during his abode in Cambria, on his second mission, from which emanated many characters who became an ornament both to the church and their country. Having erected a Cathedral at Llandaff, consecrated Dubricius arch bishop of Caerleon, and directed the Gallican liturgy to be used instead of the Roman, † he again retired to his native soil.

St. David, who succeeded Dubricius, with the consent of king Arthur, on account of the troublous times, removed the archiepiscopal

* Godwin de Præsul. Spelman Concil. Vol. I.

† See Collier, Eccles. Hist. Book I. Cent. 5.

epal seat from Caerleon to Menevia which was subsequently known under the appellation of St. David's. At this time the archbishop had under him three suffragans, the bishops of St. Asaph, Bangor and Llandaff. Among other eminent men who flourished in the church about this period may be reckoned CADOC PADERN, OUDOCEEUS, KENTIGERN, ASAPH, COLUMBA GILDAS, and COLUMBANUS.

Cadoc, abbot of Llancarvan, the son of a British prince, lived about the middle of the sixth century, and distinguished himself by having maintained above three hundred of the clergy at his own expence. He died in the year 570.

Patern, or *Padern* was descended from a noble family in Amorica, and travelling into Ireland he lived for some time in a state of seclusion; but quitting his retreat, he came into Wales, where he raised himself to considerable eminence by his piety, and was the esteemed friend of St. Teliaw and St. David.

Oudocceus, was third bishop of Llandaff, and convened the clergy of his diocese for the express purpose of excommunicating Mouricus, king of Glamorgan, for the murder of Cinitus.

Kentigern, was maternally descended from Lothus a Pictish king, and being devoted to piety he lived an ascetic life to prepare himself for the ministry, and visiting North Wales founded there a religious society; after which he returned to his native country and died at Glasgow in the year 560.

St. Asaph, was of noble extraction, received his education in the monastery of Llanelwy under Kentigern, whom he succeeded; and dying in the year 590, left his name to the city over which he presided.

St. Columba, was born in the year 522, being descended of a Scotch family, that resided in Ireland: but for the promulgation of the Gospel came into Britain, and during his travels converted Bridius king of the Picts; under whose sanction he founded a monastery of Iona, one in the Hebridean isles.

Gildas, who was born in the year 520, became the pupil of Iltutus, and acquired a considerable share of learning as is evinced in a work, which he completed in the forty-fourth

year of his age, entitled *De Excidio Britanniaë*. He resided in the celebrated monastery of Bangor, where he was eminent for superior oratorical talents, and has the honour of being the principal author to whom the world is indebted for the history of the æra in which he lived.

Columbanus was a native of Ireland and the pupil of Congallus, abbot of Bencor. Leaving that country he came into Britain to preach the gospel about the year 589; whence he removed into Burgundy, where he founded the famous abbey of Luxevil.

Numerous others, distinguished for their zeal and piety, are noticed by ecclesiastical writers, and their memoirs are recorded in the appellations of different churches through the principality, to which they have not only given names, but are also considered the patron saints, viz. Tysilio, Twrog, Beuno, Aidan, Daniel, Peirio, Cerdio, Flewin, Hynfarwy, Christiolus, Cýngar, Jestin, Seiriol, Patrick, Cybi, Elion, Mechel, Tegfan, Rhuddlad, Tyfrydog, Pabo, Dwynwen, Coinwen, Meirion, &c. &c. &c.*

To these, the churches denominated after them, have erroneously been supposed to be dedicated; but the original dedication in the primitive ages, was to the holy and undivided trinity; and the conferring that honour upon some favourite saint or servant of God, was an innovation of later date. In those early times the clergy had no distinct cures or separate parishes, where they resided, but they lived together with their respective bishops in monastic, or collegiate bodies on their own property, or the gratuitous offerings of the people. Here, collectively, they were habituated to the exercises of reading and prayer, and hence proceeded to perform the duties of their function in such districts as were allotted them by their diocesans. There were at that early period, but few churches in the country; therefore the places made use of for divine service were chiefly scattered cloisters and oratories,† where the ministers of
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* For a further account of these, see Rowland's *Mona Antiq. Restaur.* p. 154. and Harpsfield *Eccles. Hist. Ang.* c. 27.

† This accounts for the numerous places in Wales, distinguished by the appellation of *Mynachty*.

the district came at stated times to read and expound the scriptures, and administer the sacraments to the people. But this being found inconvenient, as Christians increased, churches began to be built in divers places, in which the respective ministers resided; and hence arose the establishment of parochial cures, which took place soon after the horrid massacre of the monks at Bangor, by the barbarous Saxons. Hitherto the Cambrian church had preserved its independency, but though it silently opposed the innovations of the Romish church, respecting baptism, the time of keeping Easter, and the celibacy of the clergy; and St. Augustine had in vain attempted to establish his own supremacy, and produce an uniformity of worship between the Welsh and Saxon churches; yet, in the reign of Conan Tindaeddwy, having suffered Elbodius to be appointed archbishop of North Wales, the clergy gradually were induced to acknowledge the sovereign pontiff.

In the year 1101 the diocese of St. David fell under the jurisdiction of the archi-episcopal see of Canterbury, king Henry the First having nominated one Bernard, a Norman, his chaplain, to the bishopric, who was consecrated without the consent of the clergy, in whom had uniformly, till that period, resided the election of their bishops. On the subjugation of the country, by Edward the First, the whole of Wales, as to its ecclesiastical affairs, submitted to the metropolitan see of Canterbury; and at the dissolution of the monasteries, the Welsh having been subjected to the English laws, of course, the Romish clergy in Wales, experienced a similar fate to those of the sister kingdom. And from the close incorporation of the two countries, the history of the church after that time is nearly similar in both.

Though the Welsh strenuously resisted the Romish doctrine of clerical celibacy, so late as the convention of a synod by archbishop Anselm in the year 1103; yet they appear to have been strongly tinged with Romish superstition; and their religious character at an early era, is thus delineated by a masterly hand.

“ In ancient times, says Giraldus,* about two hundred years before the overthrow of Britain, the Welsh were instructed and confirmed in the faith, by Faganus and Damianus, sent into the island at the request of king Lucius by Pope Eleutherius, and from that period, when Germanus of Auxerre and Lupus of Troyes, came over on account of the corruption, which had crept into the island by the invasion of the Saxons, but particularly with a view of expelling the Pelagian heresy, nothing heretical, or contrary to the true faith was to be found among the natives. But it is said, that some part of the ancient doctrines are still retained. They give the first piece broken off from every loaf to the poor; they sit down to dinner, by three in a company, in honour of the trinity. With extended arms and bowing head they ask a blessing of every monk or priest, or of every person wearing a religious habit. But they desire, above all others nations the episcopal ordination and unction, by which the grace of the spirit is given. They give a tenth of all their property, animals, cattle and sheep, either when they marry, or go on pilgrimage, or by the council of the church, are persuaded to amend their lives: this partition of their effects they call the great tithe, two parts of which they gave to the church, where they were baptised, and the third, to the bishop of the diocese. But of all pilgrimages they prefer that to Rome, where they pay the most fervent adoration to the apostolic see. We observe that they shew a greater respect than other nations to churches and ecclesiastical persons, to the relics of saints, bells, holy books, and the cross, which they devoutly revere; and hence their churches enjoy more than common tranquillity. For peace is not only preserved towards all animals feeding in church-yards, but at a great distance beyond them, where certain boundaries and ditches have been appointed by the bishops; in order to maintain the security of the sanctuary. But the principal churches to which antiquity has annexed the greatest reverence, extend their protection to the herds, as far as they can go to feed in the morning, and return at night. If, therefore,

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 334.

therefore, any person has incurred the enmity of his prince, on applying to the church for protection, he and his family will continue to live unmolested. But many persons abuse this indemnity, far exceeding the indulgence of the canon, which in such cases only grants personal safety; and from the places of refuge even make hostile irruptions, and more severely harass the country than the prince himself. Hermits and anchorites more strictly abstinent and more spiritual can no where be found; for this nation is earnest in all its pursuits, and neither worse men than the bad, nor better than the good, can be met with,"* Little deviation, in a religious point of view, has occurred, since the time of Giraldus, in the national character of the Welsh, except what has proceeded from the effects of the Reformation: the same devotional spirit, the same ardency of zeal, and the same propensity to superstition is discoverable amongst them to the present day. And hence it is that in no part of the British isles do the people display the beauty of religion when guided by reason, more than the Welsh; nor more strongly exhibit its deformity, when under the influence of fanaticism. There are many sects of what are considered regular Protestant dissenters from the established church, which had their rise in the reigns of James, and Charles the First, and more especially during the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, who have their distinct places of worship. But the greatest number of seceders from the churches are the different descriptions of methodists, whose places of assembling, multiplied over the face of the country, receive the appellation of chapels. Indeed the cause of dissent appears to be annually increasing from some powerful causes or other; and unless timely prevented, the whole ecclesiastical face of the country will undergo a complete change. The general illiterate state of the regular clergy has been one assignable reason, and which, to a certain extent, must be admitted even by the friends of the establishment. For most of the livings in Wales are so small, and the

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stipends,

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 334.

stipends of curates so scanty, that no inducement is held out for youth being properly instructed for the ministry ; and consequently the churches must be served by incompetent ministers. But this evil is likely soon to be remedied. For by the zealous endeavours of the present worthy and learned bishop of St. David's, two learned seminaries are about being instituted, one at Ystradmeyrig ; and another at Lampeter, in Cardiganshire, for the education of youth designed for holy orders ; who will be provided with able tutors for instructing them both in arts and divinity.

Most places of note in Wales enjoy the benefit of a *free-school*, and in the year 1749, for the instruction of the children of the lower orders, a hundred and forty-two itinerant schoolmasters were appointed by the society for the propagation of Christian knowledge. Those among Protestant dissenters have been provided for in this respect, by the pious bequest of that truly liberal man Dr. Daniel Williams, many years a respectable pastor of a congregation in London ; who left by will a large sum of money for the establishing numerous *charity schools* in places where such institutions appeared most desirable : by virtue of which the trustees have erected many in divers parts of the principality.

The lovers of *ecclesiastical, monastic, and sepulchral architecture* will find ample scope for amusement and admiration, in the remains of religious buildings, both in an integral and delapidated state, still visible in various parts of the principality. The affinity of England to Wales has been assigned as the reason for architecture appearing nearly on a level in each, because that as a new species of building arose up at different eras in one country imitations would speedily find an introduction into the other. This after the time of William the Conqueror would obviously be the case, not only from the near connexion, which arose from territorial collocation, but also from the circumstance of many of the English sojourning among the Welsh ; first, as authoritative visitors, and then as absolute conquerors. Hence it is evident how so great a similarity should be prevalent in the modes

of building, adopted by both people: for through Cambria is apparent in churches, monasteries, and other religious structures, the same modes of design, the same good taste, the same exquisite workmanship, and the same decorative display in finishing, as is conspicuous in England.

Of the *Roman-British* manner of constructing religious edifices no specimens remain to furnish the faintest trace. And of what has usually been considered the *Saxon* style, no examples can be adduced, but what written documents refer the chronological inquisitor, to the time of the Norman conquest. Except in the first or more early class of this species of buildings, may be ranged the nave of Margam Abbey church, the principal parts of which are composed of breaks, plinths, and an abacus, supporting arches, all in the simplest style, with which the windows accurately correspond.* Bearing all the features both in columns, arches, door-ways, and windows, which have been laid down as indications of the genuine Saxon manner in its plainest dress, is part of the north side of the nave of Ewenny church, in Glamorganshire. Yet this was erected by Maurice de Londres, a *Norman* lord, several years subsequent to the conquest. To this period is also assignable the fine entrance receding arch in the ruined abbey of Strata Florida, in Cardiganshire.

Part of the south side of the nave in Manorbier church, Pembrokeshire, erected soon after that period, exhibits the *pointed* arch, the adoption of which is evinced in the north side of the nave of St. David's cathedral. And in the ruined nave of Eilandaff church is visible the *pointed* style after its emancipation from that motley one, produced by an incongruous intermixture of the circular and pointed arch, marking the era of King Henry the First. These specimens, with their various ornamental adjuncts, compared together, plainly shew that the *pointed* order had no other source, than that of a regular and progressive course, from one mode of design to another; and originat-

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* On viewing this specimen of ancient architecture, we are naturally struck with its great simplicity, and astonishing resemblance, to the correct proportions of Italian design.—Hoare's *Giraldus*, Vol. II. p. 414.

ing in the accidental discovery of *intersecting* arches.* In the fourth class, comprehending those buildings in which the shafts of the columns are divided into stories by fascia or bands, as is seen in Westminster Abbey, may be placed, as an example of this charming style, the east end of the chapter house belonging to Margam Abbey.

During the reign of Edward the Third, a new style of architecture became prevalent, which by a profusion of ornament and variety of decoration has received the appropriate denomination of the *florid style*. Of this, one specimen only appears in Wales, which is the exquisitely beautiful rood-loft in the cathedral of St. David.

The sixth class includes such buildings as were erected from the year 1377 till 1483; in which is manifest a different order of design from that of the preceding period; the pointed arch was not so sharp, the enrichments were fewer, and declined in the redundancy of their parts. This in Wales can only be illustrated by decorations, or minute parts of buildings, as the niche at the east end of the north aisle, belonging to the choir in the cathedral church of Llandaff.

In the reign of Henry the Seventh another material change took place in the style of architecture. The pointed arch was now so flattened, that the line was obliged to be struck from two centres: yet the more acutely pointed one was not wholly abandoned. The moulding, which had usually accompanied the direction of the arch, took a new turn, being placed horizontally,

* After so obvious a procedure of design, for the purpose of producing variety in plans and decorations, it is surprising to find how ingenious learned men have been, to render complex what is the case in almost all discoveries, simplicity. Hence a Warburton would lead you to find the first model of an arch in the intertwining of arboreal branches. And another elegant scholar will inform you, that the pointed arch, which we call gothic, is the *primitive* arch; for as this may be constructed without a centre by advancing the stones in gradual projections over each other, and then cutting off the projecting angles, its invention was obvious, and naturally preceded those constructed upon mechanical principles; of which I believe there are no examples anterior to the Macedonian conquest.—*Knights Analytical Inquiry*, &c. p. 166.

tally, with a small portion at each end, bent vertically; this was denominated a *label*. The decorative part was renewed from the time of Edward the Third, with redoubled brilliancy, and the interspersion of family arms, and other devices produced in the ornamental parts almost endless variety. An instance of this is a gateway at Crickhowel, in Brecknockshire.

Numerous specimens of sculpture also will be found in screens, shrines, tombs, fonts, stone-seats, and other minuter parts of the interior of ecclesiastical buildings, and very curious examples of the state of the art during the period, subsequent to the departure of the Romans, occur in the inscribed and decorated crosses, which succeeded the rude, unhewn, upright stones of the druidical age; and which from certain endless involute ornaments in relievo, have erroneously been supposed and described by several writers, as Runic monuments and relics of Scandinavian superstition. In a general point of view, as an interesting tourist remarks, "On the whole, the pleasure of travelling in Wales is in some degree tinged with melancholy, on observing the honest and amiable manners of its inhabitants, to find so many appearances of a fallen country. One of the reflections, which will most forcibly strike an observing traveller in Wales, and scarcely meet with credit from those who have not visited the country is, the height of improvement and grandeur to which it had attained at an era, looked back upon as barbarous, through the delusive medium of modern pride. The style of castle architecture, the style of cathedral architecture, the style of even the cottages that yet remain, evince the flourishing state of those arts, which infer a corresponding convenience in others, whose evanescent nature precludes us from more direct evidence of their perfection. In England our ancestors have left us dispersed in various places splendid remains of their greatness; but in Wales you can scarcely travel ten miles without coming upon some vestige of antiquity, which in another country you would go fifty to trace out. Nor is it alone in the palaces of lords that these features of civilization are to be found. The ruins of ancient farms, and barns, are particularly to be noticed

noticed, as unquestionable evidences of opulence and fertility. The agriculture of the country was much in the hands of the clergy; and it was no uncommon thing to meet with barns belonging to abbies and monasteries, capable of containing more than the produce of the parish in which they are situated, in the present supposedly improved state of cultivation. It is indeed well known, that long before the date of those vestiges which still remind us of former grandeur, the Welsh nation had passed through a former, and very luminous period of civilization, that of the Roman empire in its most flourishing state. For several hundred years did the Britons enjoy the benefits of that illuminated period;”* so that they never fell into a state of real barbarism, though they sunk into poverty and that misery, already alluded to, subsequent to the dereliction of the island by the Romans. But notwithstanding these distresses, they retained some traces of learning and the fine arts, and for delicacy and good breeding they do not appear, through the middle ages, to have been inferior to their neighbours the English.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION, DIVISIONS, &c.---Wales, by its aquatic boundary, forms nearly a peninsula, being washed on the north and west, by the Irish sea, on the south and south-east by the Bristol channel, and limited on the east by the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Salop, and Chester. It is situated between fifty-one degrees twenty minutes, and fifty-three, twenty-five of north latitude; and between two degrees forty-one minutes, and four, fifty-six west longitude, from Greenwich. The length from north to south, extends from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and eighty miles; and the breadth from fifty to eighty; comprising an area of about 8125 square miles, equal to 5,206,900 acres of land; and according to a recent census, the number of inhabitants amounted to 544,375, or nearly 67 persons to each square mile. From the reports to the board of agriculture, it appears, that of the land 900,000 acres are subject to the plough, and 2,500,000 under pasturage, leaving

* Malkin's Scenery, Antiquities, and Biography of South Wales, Vol. I. Introd. p. 77.

ing 1,700,000 acres out of the whole agrarian admeasurement, in a state of waste ; of which quantity 700,000 acres have been reported as capable of being brought into cultivation.

Wales was formerly, as previously observed, of much greater extent, having for its boundaries the natural lines of demarcation, the Severn, and Dee. The ancient dimensions were however at various periods contracted by severing from it the portions of the several counties, situated westward of those rivers ; and taking out of it the whole county of Monmouth. The limits of the various districts of Wales, with the above exception, and their names, have been retained from a very remote period to the present time, independent of the modern arrangement of them into shires, as imposed by the English government. The division of Wales* made in the time of Llewelyn ap Gruffydr the last prince of North Wales, was into three provinces, one dependant on Aberfraw in Mon ; the second on Dinevwr in the south ; and the third on Mathraval in Powys. And the distribution of these into Cantrefs † was as follows :

To ABERFRAW were assigned the fifteen cantrefs, or hundreds of Gwynedd, viz. *Mon* containing three, Aberfraw, Rhosyr and Cemaes. *Caer yn avon* four, Aber, Arvon, Dunodig, and Lleyn. *Merrionydd* three, Merion, Arwystli and Penllyn. *Pervedd-wlad*, five, Ystrad, Rhyvoniog, Rhos, Dyfryn Clwyd, and Tegeingel. These were subdivided into thirty-eight comots. || --- *Mathraval* was subject to the following divisions, viz. *Powys Madog*, comprising five Cantrefs, Barwn, Rhiw, Uwchnant, Trevred, and Rhaiadyr. *Powys Gwenwynwyn*, five, Eyrnwy Ystrad, Llyswynao Cydewain, and Cynan. *Rhwng Gwy a Harren*, four, Maelienydd, Elvel, Clawdd and Bwallt. These were further sub-divided into forty comots.

DINEVWR

* This account is taken from an ancient Welsh manuscript, entitled *Llifer coch*, preserved in the library of Jesus College, Oxford, an extract from which has been published in the *Myvyrian Archæology*, Vol. II. p. 606.

† Derived from *cant*, a hundred, and *iref*, a town or village, and nearly answers to the English territorial division, called a hundred.

|| In Welsh *Cwmwd*, that is a division, or smaller district.

DINEVWR comprised *Ceredigion* having four cantrefs, Penwedig, Canol, Cadell, and Seirwen, or Hirwaen. *Caerdyddin*, four, Finiog, Eginog, Bychan, and Mawr. *Brycheiniog*, three, Selyr, Canol, and Mawr. *Morganwg*, four, Gorwenydd, Penydd, Breinol, and Gwaenllwg. *Gwent*, two, Gwent Uwch coed, and Iscoed Gwent. *Dyfed*, seven, Emlyn, Arberth, Daugleddyv, Coed Penvro, Rhos, Peoidiog, and Cemaes; sub-divided into seventy-eight comots.

Nearly similar to this, is the present civil division of the country into twelve counties, six included under the appellation of North Wales, viz. Anglesea, Caernarvon, Denbigh, Flint, Montgomery, and Merioneth: and six in South Wales, viz. Cardigan, Radnor, Brecknock, Glamorgan, Caermarthen, and Pembroke. The centurial subdivisions remain nearly the same as in the time of Llewelyn. The whole contains fifty-eight market towns, and seven hundred and fifty-one parishes; and according to the enumeration made under the population act in 1801, the number of houses amounted to 108,053, inhabited by 541,546 persons, viz. 275,178 males, and 284,368, females; of whom 53,822 were employed in trade, handicraft or manufacture, and 189,062 in agriculture, and the average scale of mortality, according to registered burials, for a period of ten years, appears to have been in the proportion of 1 to 60 of the existing population. By the returns to Government, the state of the lower classes, forms a subject of serious and melancholy consideration. The amount of money raised for the maintenance of the poor in the year 1809, was 186,394; forming the enormous ratio of 7s. and 1½d. in the pound rate.

For the purposes of administering justice, Wales is divided into *four* circuits, viz. The Chester circuit, including the counties of Chester, Flint, Denbigh, and Montgomery. The northern circuit, for Anglesea, Caernarvon, and Merioneth. The south-eastern circuit, for Radnor, Brecknock, and Glamorgan. And the south-western circuit, comprising the three shires of Cardigan, Caermarthen, and Pembroke. By a statute, passed

in the reign of Elizabeth, the king was empowered to appoint two persons learned in the laws to be judges in each of the Welsh circuits, which had but one justice before, or grant commissions of associations. And by another statute, passed in the reign of George the Second, it was enacted, that where the kingdom of England is mentioned in any act of parliament, the same shall be interpreted, as comprehending the dominion of Wales, and the town of Berwick-on-Tweed.* Wales sends 24 members to the British senate, viz. one knight for each shire, and one burgess for each county town, except that of Merioneth; in lieu of which two towns in Pembrokeshire return a member each, viz. Pembroke, and Haverford-west. The principality has given the august title of Prince of Wales to the eldest son of the king of England ever since the time of Edward the First; besides which, various places are honourably distinguished as giving titles to a portion of the peerage, viz. In Anglesea, Beaumaris confers the title of baron on the noble family of Bulkeley, as does Newburgh, on that of Cholmondeley. In Caernarvonshire, the county town gives the title of earl to the Herbert family, and Gwyder, that of baron to the family of Burrell. In Denbighshire the county town confers the title of earl on the Fielding family, and Ruthin that of baron to the family of Yelverton. The Arshburnham family derive the title of viscount from St. Asaph, as does Kenyon that of baron from the village of Gredlington; and the family of Herbert possess the earldom of Montgomery. The county town of Cardiganshire gives the title of earl to the family of Brudenel. That of Caermarthen-shire the title of marquis to the family of Osborne; the village of Brewse, in the same county, the title of baron to the family of Howard; and Dinevor or Dynevwr, the same to that of Rice. Three families derive their honours from Glamorganshire, viz. Stewart, baron Cardiff; Talbot Chetwynd, baron Hensol; and Howard,

* Murders and felonies in any part of Wales, can be tried in the adjoining English county, and as a certiorari lies to Wales, and indictments for misdemeanors, a writ of Habeas Corpus may of course be granted, to remove a prisoner from Wales to England.

Howard, baron Gower. The family of Herbert receive the title of earl from the county town of Pembrokeshire; De la Poer that of baron from Haverford-west; and the county town of Radnorshire gives title of earl to the family of Bouverie.

Wales pays eleven parts of the land tax, and affords to the national militia, exclusive of the local, 5889 men, viz. Anglesea 368; Caernarvon 239; Denbigh 645; Flint 377; Montgomery 520; Cardigan 456; Radnor 261; Brecknock 384; Glamorgan 754; Caermarthen 760; and Pembroke, with the county town of Haverford West, 377.

MOUNTAINS, LAKES, RIVERS, SURFACE, AND GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY. Wales exhibits all the features of a detached district from England, consisting of almost continued ranges of lofty mountains, and impending crags, intersected by numerous deep ravines with extensive vallies, and affording endless views of bold, wild or romantic scenery. To enumerate the *mountains*, which are nominally known to the natives, and form very striking objects to the eye of the traveller, would be endless; but a general view of them as they are grouped in expansive chains with multifarious ramifications will be useful, as tending to illustrate future allusive observations.

Of these chains it may be observed, that they generally extend in a direction from south east to north west having their escarpment, or their most abrupt declivity, on the latter bearing*; a circumstance, strongly corroborative of the Neptunian system, or the theory, which states that the present earth was once submerged by an universal deluge. Numerous projecting ridges laterally expand on various parts of the compass, in countless ramification; many of which are surmounted by lofty eminences, that are formed into to so many distinct mountains; so that, like the Alps, they seem to be mountain piled upon mountain, and hills conglomerated upon hills. In
other

* See this curious geological fact demonstrated, and accounted for, in a memoir by professor Kirwan, published in the papers of the Irish Academy.

other instances they suddenly rise, in solitary and majestic grandeur, from the bosom of deep vallies; and by the abruptness of their elevation, and the craggy contour of the sides assume a terrific appearance, as they elevate their summits to the sky:

“ Dame nature drew these mountaynes in such sort,
As though the one should yeeld the other grace :
Or as each hill itself were such a fort,
They scorned to stoope to give the common place *.”

The principal range in North Wales is that, which is denominated the *Snowdonian* chain, from the circumstance of the lofty mountain Snowden, occupying its centre. Commencing at Bardsey Island in the south-west extremity of Caernarvonshire, the line, varied at irregular intervals by conical peaks, extends in a north-easterly direction to the promontory of Penmaenbach, in the bay of Conway. The intermediate parts consist of the loftiest mountains in Wales. For though Snowden stands pre-eminent, yet others ascending gradually approximate in height; and by their aspiring tops appear to menace a rivalry in altitude with the hoary father of this alpine family. The general escarpment, as previously observed, is to the south-west, towards the sea; but the particular escarpment of individual mountains, or detached groupes depends on, and follows the course of the rivulets, or streams. “ The greater part of the rocks composing the Caernarvonshire mountains are schistose hornblende, schistose mica, granite and porphyry, inclosing considerable blocks of quartz. The western side by which we descended is very precipitous, consisting of hornstone, upon which are placed a number of basaltic columns, more or less regularly pentagonal, standing perpendicularly to the plane of the horizon. The columns are of different lengths, about four feet diameter, with transverse

* Churchyard's Worthies of Wales, p. 109.

joints from six to eight feet asunder, and considerable depositions of thin laminated quartz in the joints *.”

The *Ferwyn* chain occupies the eastern part of Merionethshire, and branches out into Denbighshire. Its length is about sixteen miles, and the breadth varies from five to ten. Cader Ferwyn, Cader Fronwen, and the Sylattin are the most elevated points. Another line ramifies off into Montgomeryshire, and joins the Breddin chain, extending into Shropshire. “The substance of which these mountains is composed is primitive schistus, that is, such as does not contain iron pyrites, or any remains of impressions of organized bodies, the position of the strata being, generally, nearly perpendicular to the plane of the horizon. The greater part of the schistus is in thick irregular laminæ, intersected here and there with veins of quartz, and vary often considerably from the perpendicular; the shivery schistus, or shale, abounding principally on the eastern descent of Trim y Sarn and the southern boundary of Llangollen vale †.” Another chain, or rather a continuance of the same, extends in a south-west direction from Pennant, near the vale of Tanad, in Montgomeryshire to the sea-coast near Llangyllinin in Merionethshire. In this extensive ridge are conspicuous several lofty mountains, known under the appellation of the *Arrans* and the *Arrenigs*; the most eminent of which are Arran-ben-llyn, and Arran-fowddy, and the extremity of the line is grandly marked by the triple head of the lofty *Cadair Idris*. Except the latter, the principal elevations of this chain consist of schistus, and shale, intermixed with mica, and spar, or indurated argil. Cadair Idris, is composed of nearly similar substances to those of Snowden, viz. granite, granitell, porphyry, hornblende, felspar, and quartz. Over this immense assemblage of mountainous obstructions to the traveller, a communication is formed with the northern and
southern

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour through North Wales, a small, but interesting work.

† Aikin's Journal, p. 20.

southern sides of the ridge by a narrow defile, called, from the circumstance of a cross having been once erected near it, for the use of pilgrims, *Bwlch y groes*.

The celebrated *Plinlimmon* proudly elevates his lofty crest above a range of table land, extending from the vicinity of Llanvair in the north-east till they decline in the south-west, and end in the abrupt cliffs, which bound part of the bay of Cardigan, near Aberystwith. Among particular elevations in this line, after the sovereign of the group, the Carno mountains stand the most pre-éminent. Plinlimmon comprises Granite, Granitell of Kirwan, composed of quartz and short, siliceous and schistose porphyry, intersected with numerous and expansive veins of pure quartz. The secondary hills chiefly consist of primitive schistus, accompanied with quartz. Some of the schistus is of a fine texture and laminates into excellent slate; but the greater part is of a coarse kind, and is either fractory or shivers into shale.

South Wales, though not equally mountainous with the northern part of the principality, nor so distinguishable for its alpine heights; yet is far from being deficient in elevations and depressions. An extensive chain of mountains stretches from Bleddva forest, north-east of Llandrindod wells in Radnorshire; crosses the northern part of Brecknockshire; continues in a south-westerly direction through Caermarthenshire; and terminates in the conspicuous ridge of the Prescely or Presceleu mountain, in the county of Pembroke. The most distinguished eminences in this line are the group, called the yellow mountains, Cwm Rhysglog, Pen y cader, Mynydd castel Newydd 'Carreg Wen, and Llanvernach.

The Fothoc hills on the eastern side of Brecknockshire commence another line, principally known under the general appellation of the *Black mountains* from the appearance given to them by the dark vegetable covering of heath and ling. Among individual elevations, remarkable for their height, are Tre beddw mountain, Pen Mallard hills, the black mountains strictly so denominated, and the high table land, which in the

south part of Caermarthenshire is closed by the isolated mountain, called Penbre hill.

These mountainous tracts abound with various kinds of valuable minerals, mines of which are worked in numerous places; and abounding, as they do, with multifarious, rare, and scarce vegetable productions, afford a rich feast to the botanist. In many instances also they are accompanied with the most delicious and romantic vallies, through which innumerable rivers and streams, flowing from countless lakes, in meandering courses deliver their waters to the sea. Vallies which in point of fertility, beauty, and picturesque scenery, stand unrivalled; for in comparison they may vie with those so far famed among the mountains of Piedmont and Savoy.

To describe all the lakes diffused through this mountainous region would prove a Sisyphean task. Camden's continuator reckoned fifty to sixty in Caernarvonshire only, and in a manuscript topographical description of North Wales, sixty-two are noticed by their distinctive appellations. The most distinguished for extent, or the beauty of the surrounding scenery in North Wales are Llyniau Nantle, Llyn Cywellin, Llyniau Llanberris, and Llyn Conway, in Caernarvonshire; with Pimble-meer, and Talylllyn in Merionethshire. In South-Wales, Llyn Bychlyn, in Radnorshire, and Llyn Savathan or Langors pool, in the county of Brecknock.

RIVERS. From the description of the numerous, pleasant, and useful rivers, already described in this work, England appears eminently conspicuous in the plenteous disposition of water for the purposes of irrigation, communication, manufactures and commerce. Wales, though a mountainous country is equally remarkable for its multifarious streams; which issuing from considerable lakes, or aided by their waters, meander through the country, and form excellent harbours at their confluence with the sea. In this respect the principality, for its extent, possesses whatever is capable of exciting and encouraging a prudent industry, to improve by skill and labour the bounties, which Nature has here bestowed with a liberal hand
for

for the most beneficial uses. The principal rivers are the *Severn*, the *Wye*, the *Conway*, the *Towy*, and the *Dee*, which have not only attained pre-eminence in fame for the utility of their navigation; but, as the theme of poets, have been celebrated in song. The former constitutes the eastern, and the latter, the north-eastern boundary of the country, between the embouchures of which many others, though less distinguished in a commercial point of view, yet highly valuable for their fisheries, and other properties, fall into the sea, through an extensive line of coast.

In taking a succinct general survey, it may be eligible for the sake of method, to trace their sources in the order in which they unite their waters with the ocean: commencing with such, that in this view, class as rivers of *North Wales*.

THE DEE, * has its origin in the mountainous district of Merionethshire by the junction of two small streams, which rise about four miles to the north-west of Llanwchllyn; and two miles below that village enters the extensive water called Pimble-meer. Issuing out of that beneath the town of Bala, it flows under the bridge, takes a north-easterly direction through the charming vale of Eidernion, and turning to the east in fine meandering curves, waters the picturesque vales of Glyn-dwrddwy and Llangollen, where it receives the tributary Bran. Thence passing to the north of Chirk Castle, and joined by the Ceiriog, proceeds beneath the park of Wynne-stay; and emerging into the expansive vale of Cheshire, takes a northerly course, passes the town of Holt, nearly half encompasses the walls of Chester, where it forms a spacious estuary, that opens a principal channel for the Irish trade.

THE CLWYDD rises out of a small lake beneath the northern termination of the Berwyn chain of mountains, which extend in the vicinity of Corwen and Llangollen, and running northward through a most romantic vale about eighteen miles, glides by the town of Ruthin to St. Asaph; a short distance from which

F 2

city

* See Beauties, Vol. II, p. 192.

city, joined by the Elwy coming from the westward, it enters the marsh of Rhyddlan, laves the walls of that castle, and three miles below, falls into the Irish sea.

THE CONWY or *Conway*, issuing out of Llyn Conwy, where the three shires of Denbigh, Merioneth, and Caernarvon meet, runs in a northerly direction; and receives in the short course of twenty miles, almost as many tributary streams: the principal of which are the Machno, the Ceirio, and the Llugwy. This river having its rise in the mountainous district of Snowdonia is extremely rapid in the origin, precipitating its waters in successive falls over numerous cataracts, till emerging under the high wooded cliff of Gwydir, it rushes into the beautiful vale of Nant-Conway; and flowing under the elegant bridge at Llanrwst, built by the celebrated architect, Inigo Jones, disports itself in elegant curves, when meeting the tide at Trefriew it becomes navigable and rolling its flood to Conway, swells in to a wide channel, capable of admitting ships of considerable burthen.

THE OGWEN, a small river coming from Llyn Ogwen in the same chain of mountains, is similarly rapid in its course, and running in a north-westerly direction forms the small cove of Penrhyn; where it falls into the straits of Menai, opposite Beaumaris.

THE SCIONT, a small but rapid river, originates from a lake on the eastern side of Snowdon, and suddenly inclining to the north-west from the two beautiful lakes of Llanberis in the vale of Peris, and leaving the central confines of Snowdonia, where nature exhibits her rude outline in the most sublime and magnificent style of scenery, turns to the west; passes by the ancient city of Segontium, to Caernarvon, laves the walls of its castle, and enters the Menai straits, forming by its aestuary a safe and commodious port.

THE GWYNEDD is the first notable river falling into the bay of Cardigan, Criccieth and Pwllheli rivers, as they are called, being inconsiderable streams. It rises in Snowdonia and expanding into Llyn gwynnedd, passes the village of Beddgelert,

enters

enters into an immense mountainous chasm, which separates Caernarvon and Merioneth, and flowing under Pont Aber-Glaslyn, the bridge forming the communication between the two counties, it falls over a lofty ledge of rocks constituting a curious salmon leap; and opening into the wide estuary, denominated the Traeth mawr, unites with St. George's Channel.

THE DRWYDD commences its course from the mountainous tract in the north of Merionethshire, near Bwlch Carreg y fran, and abating in rapidity, as it emerges from the hills, flows in beautiful meanders through the picturesque vale of Festiniog, and passing beneath the rich plantations environing Tanybwllch hall, opens into the estuary of Traeth bach, which coalesces with the Traeth mawr.

THE AVON has its rise near the source of the *Dee*, at a place called Drwsynant ucha; and more placid in its features than other alpine streams, winds through a narrow valley till it arrives at Dolgelley, about one mile below which, it receives the Mowddoc, a mountain rivulet, coming from the northward; and widening its channel expands into a fine estuary forming, at its confluence with the sea, the harbour of Barmaw, or Barmouth.

THE DOVEY or *Dyffi*, has its source at the foot of Arran Fowddy, one of those mountains which compose the Cadair chain, and flowing southward to Dinas-y-mowddu, takes thence a south-west direction through a fine rich vale towards Machynlleth, near which town it is joined by the Ceiriog; and after several considerable doublings, opening in a wide estuary, has its conflux with the sea at Aberdovey.

THE RHEIDIOL, the first river of South Wales, according to the rotation of survey, rises in Llyn Llygad Rheidiol on the Cardiganshire side of Plinlimmon mountain, within three miles of the source of the Severn, and four of the Wye. Running southerly near Pont ar monach, commonly called the Devil's bridge, it receives the dark waters of the Monach, issuing from a chasm, which precipitates its torrent over a lofty cataract just above the bridge. The united streams then turn westward, flow through a narrow picturesque valley, bounded on each

side by irregular mountains, while the banks of the river are fringed with brush-wood, intermixed with protruding rocks; and after traversing a wild district for several miles, seeks a junction with the sea in the port of Aberystwith.

THE YSTWITH, has its origin among a range of lofty mountains, that form a natural barrier between the counties of Montgomery and Cardigan. Taking a westerly course, it flows through Cwm Ystwith, and the delightful grounds and plantations of Hafod; passes by Crosswood Park, and turning northward, empties itself into the sea through the estuary of the Rheidiol: and though running almost parallel with that river its characteristic features are strikingly different, pleasant meadows accompany its banks, and the seats of Mr. Johnes, Lord Lisburne, and Mr. Powel, decorates the margin.

THE EIRON, or *Aeron* rising near Blaen y penal, runs southward, then suddenly turning to the westward, passes amidst inclosing mountains through a most enchantingly romantic valley, and empties itself into the sea at the hamlet of Abereiron.

THE TIVY, or *Tiff*, the most considerable river of Cardiganshire, forms almost an entire natural boundary between this and the counties of Caermarthen and Pembroke. Its source is found among those mountains on the north-eastern side of the county, where stood the once celebrated monastery of Stratflour Abbey. Inclining to the south-west it passes Tregaron, enters the uninteresting plain of Llanbeder; but as it approaches Newcastle Emlyn the channel becomes deeper; and the well-wooded margin is ornamented with numerous seats of the gentry. Thence, having its waters confined within precipitous banks; it increases in rapidity, rushes over the rocky bed with raging foam, and pouring over one vast cataract, forms the admired salmon leap at Cennarth ware; gliding in a majestic stream and winding round the base of the lofty crag, crowned with the ruins of Cilgerran castle, it enters a plain below Cardigan, and in a northerly direction shortly joins the Irish Sea.

THE NEVERN rises in the northern part of the county of Pembroke, not far distant from the village of Cilgerran, and running
southerly

southerly suddenly inclines to the north-west, and in delivering its waters to the sea forms the harbour of Newport.

THE GWYN, or *Gwain*, has its source in the parish of Cilgwyn, and taking a similar direction to the Nevern, proceeds to Fishguard, where it forms a small haven.

The celebrated haven of *Milford*, receives several streams, which flow through its numerous creeks to the sea; the principal of which are the Cleddy and the Hiog, usually denominated the Western Cleddy.

THE CLEDDY issues from a spring on the southern side of the Prescely mountain, and running southerly passes the castles of Slebetch and Picton, meeting the tide in the noble creek of Laurennny.

THE HIOG, or *Western Cleddy*, has its source near the sea, in the parish of St. Catherine, on the western side of the county, and inclining to the south runs to Hurlfordd or Haverfordwest, whence taking a sinuous course it unites with the eastern Cleddy, and both join their waters in the haven near Nayland point.

THE TAF or *Tawe*, derives its origin from a small lake on the eastern extremity of Prescely mountain, runs for some miles southerly, and then taking a south-east direction, near the ruins of Whiteland Abbey, passes the village of St. Clare, a little below the town of Laugharne, and falls into Caermarthen Bay.

THE TOWY, or *Towey*, the principal river of Caermarthen-shire, though navigable only to the county town, is justly admired for the beauty of its waters, the picturesque scenery on its banks, and the interesting district through which it winds its course. Issuing from a lake near Cwm Berwyn in the south-east of Cardiganshire, and emerging from the forest of Roscob, it flows southward through an uninteresting plain to Llandovery. Inclining south-west, it sweeps round the hill on which stands Dinevwr, or Dinevor castle near Llandilo; decorated in its passage with the numerous seats on the margin it turns to the west to receive the Gwili, near Llangynor; and meeting the tide at Caermarthen, inclines to the south, rolling

its water majestically to the sea, beneath the walls of Llanstephan Castle.

THE LOUGHOR, or *Lwghor*, rises in the parish of Llandebie and running southward, after having been replenished by several tributary streams, forms a natural boundary between the counties of Caermarthen and Glamorgan; and laving the ruined walls of Lwgher Castle, widens into a broad estuary, denominated Burry river, which opens into Caermarthen Bay.

THE TAWY, commences at the foot of the Black mountains in Brecknockshire, and running to the south, is soon surrounded by coal mines, and passing the copper-works at Morris-town, falls into the Bay of Swansea.

THE NEDD, or *Neath*, originates in the same range of mountains, takes nearly a similar course, is equally immersed in Collieries, passes the town of Neath, and falls into Swansea bay, beneath the fine groves of Briton Ferry.

THE AVON, rising in Glyn Corwg, runs southwest to Aberavon, where it is environed with coal and copper-works, and three miles below descends over a bar into Swansea Bay.

THE OGMORE, which has its source amid the mountainous district on the north-side of Glamorganshire, running southward, is joined by the Lanvy, coming from the North-west; and passing through the town of Bridgend, soon receives the Ewenny from the north-east; and below Merthyr Mawr, falls into the British channel.

THE TAF, or *Taffe* boasts the same mountain origin as the generality of Welsh rivers, but exceeds most of them in the wildness of its features, and the vagaries of its course. The source is found at the southern base of Tre Beddw mountain, and the general inclination is to the south-east; though forming in its progress numerous and diversified curves. Hastily does it assume the form of a torrent, precipitating its waters over successive cataracts till it becomes a river near Merthyr Tydvill; whence it flows with sweeping rapidity through a valley, surrounded with mountains, whose rocky bases and sides are finely clothed with wood. Then rolling its waters between

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impending

impending cliffs it is crossed by the beautiful structure of Pont y prydd. After having been joined by the Rontha and passing under the ruins of Castel coch, it emerges from the confined barrier into a cultivated plain, in which is situated the ancient city of Llandaff; and meeting the tide four miles below Cardiff, forms a port near Penarth point, where it unites with the Bristol channel.

THE RHYMNY, or *Runney*, has its origin in Glyn Colwyn on the confines of Brecknockshire, and running in a parallel direction with the Taf, except where it makes a bend to the east near Machen bridge, passes the ruins of Caerphili castle, and flowing through low marshes, falls into the sea about three miles to the north of Penarth point.

THE USK, * rises on the north-side the Black mountain, runs easterly to Brecknock, where it receives the rapid Honddy, coming from the north; thence inclining to the south-east, and proceeding through a most delicious vale, passes Crickowel, enters Monmouthshire, where it is joined by the Gavenny, near Abergavenny, flows on to Usk, laves the walls of Caerleon, passes Newport, and joined near its mouth by the Elwy and Sorwy, has its confluence in the Severn sea.

THE WYE, singularly devious in its course, and peculiarly romantic from the picturesque effect of its attendant scenery, has its rise on the south-side of Plinlimmon, about a mile distant from the source of the Severn. The course is at first south-east to Llangerrig in Montgomeryshire, inclining to the South; and entering Radnorshire, runs to Rhaiader Gwy, where, receiving the Eilon, it becomes the boundary between the counties of Radnor and Brecknock. In this part of its course it is joined by the Ython from the north; at Builth, by the Crewyn from the west; and as it approaches the Black mountain the Llevenny, issuing out of Llyn Savathan, descends into it by the old town of Talgarth at Aber Llyn. Here taking an easterly direction, its waters are increased by various other streams

as

* See Beauties, Vol. XI. Monmouthshire, p. 19.

as it emerges from the recesses of Wales, and enters the spacious plain of Herefordshire. Passing through which, and the adjoining county, it receives several contributory rivers, as previously described in this work, * and has its confluence with the Severn below Chepstow.

THE SEVERN, the principal river of Wales, and only second to the Thames in England, though having its source nearly close to the Wye, which it receives as a tributary, before its descent to the sea, takes a widely different course, and is intirely distinct in characteristic features. The source is not found, as generally represented by topographical writers, in a *lake*, but in a strong chalybeate *spring*, on the eastern side of Plinlimmon, whence issuing in a powerful stream, it cuts a deep trench, and soon after is joined by the waters of numerous springs which start up in the marshes that expand over the sides and base of the mountain. The character of the Severn does not much assimilate with its alpine origin; for it quickly loses its native rapidity after flowing under the name of Hafrin, through Glyn-Hafren, and being joined by a powerful stream denominated the *Se*, at the town of Llanydloes. The course hitherto eastward, now inclines to the Northward, as it flows through the charming valley, extending from the former place to the handsome town of Newton. Still inclining to the north, the vale through which it passes, expands in front of the hills of Breidden and Moel y Golfa. At Berhiew it receives the Rhiw, and passing beneath the fine groves and park of Powys castle, reaches Welsh Pool; where, from becoming navigable, its commercial importance commences. The waters are confined within deep banks, as it passes through the vale of Montgomery, and receiving the Virnwy, previously augmented by the waters of the Tenad, the Severn leaves the principality, and enters the great plain of Salop, through which it gently glides, till it approaches Shrewsbury. Pervading the whole of Shropshire, and having taken a southerly direction, it nearly
equally

* See the Beauties, Vol. VI. p. 435. and Vol. XI. p. 18.

equally dissects the county of Worcester, passes through Gloucestershire, * inclining to the south-west, and at the southern extremity of that county, joined by the Wye, and lower Avon, it meets the sea, forms the Bristol Channel, and revisiting the border of its native country, divides the counties of Monmouth, Glamorgan, Caermarthen and Pembroke, from the opposite shores of Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall.

THE CLIMATE of Wales differs materially from that of the portion of England, lying in the same parallel of latitude; assimilating more with the northern parts of the island. Considerable variations however, are discoverable within the confined limits of this narrow region. In a general view the air is sharp; in the mountainous parts bleak; moderately mild in the vales, and those parts adjacent to the ocean; especially on the southern coast, and particularly in the far-famed vale of Glamorgan. From the greater degrees of cold, prevalent in the Cambrian atmosphere, snow is more frequent in Wales, than in England, lies much deeper, and is seen covering the tops of the highest mountains, for many months in the year. It is observable, when no snow falls, so as to lie, in the tract of country, eastward of the Severn, the sides of the Welsh hills may be seen with a hoary covering for several days together. The wet season in this country is not usually confined to the winter months; for rains are frequent at all times of the year. The quantity of rain, which annually falls in England, according to the experiments of Dr. Hales, † is about twenty-two inches; while the average, that descends in Wales, may be probably placed at thirty-four. Probably, because sufficient accounts of meteorological observations have not been made on this interesting subject, to form data for drawing absolute conclusions. By a comparison of what fell in several different parts of the kingdom

* For its course through this county, see the Beauties, Vol. .V. p. 509, and the description of each county it visits with its waters.

† Vegetable Statics.

kingdom, in the year 1798, it appears that the depth at London, Middlesex, was 26,22 inches; at Lancaster, Lancashire, 48,19; and at Kendal, Westmoreland, 60,85. * Indeed from numerous observations, which have been made, respecting this subject, the result has uniformly been, that more falls annually on the western, than, the eastern side, of the kingdom; and most in the mountainous districts: consequently Wales must participate considerably in such an excess of humidity. The following is the quantity of rain, which fell in London, and Brecon, in the year 1802: London 15,12 inches; Brecon 26,25 inches. † Various reasons have been assigned for this difference of the annual descent of vapours in countries, equally posited on the globe. It is generally supposed, that mountains have a peculiar power of attracting clouds and meteors; but this opinion may be left to be enjoyed by those skilled in the doctrine of occult causes. Others assert, that the air in vallies is much heavier than flying vapours; and therefore better fit to support the light air, that floats on the tops of mountains. When vapours are put into a violent agitation, and partially condensed by winds, or other external causes, they collect into clouds and mists; and by their own specific gravity fall, till they meet with such air as is able to support them; with this they mix and swim about, being every way dispersed, and the sky becomes serene and clear; but if they do not meet with such air on the tops of hills, then they are condensed into drops, and fall in rain to the ground. ‡ The discoveries of modern Chemists have, however, tended greatly to elucidate this subject, long involved in impenetrable obscurity. The experiments made on that subtle all-pervading electric fluid, demonstrably shew, its powerful effects in the various phenomena of the atmosphere, and its wonderful agency in all the diversified operations of nature.

The

* Manuscript remarks on the Weather, by Major Rook.

† Jones's History of Brecknockshire.

‡ See Varenus's Geography, edited by Sir Isaac Newton.

The fact has been ascertained by numerous well-conducted experiments, that all clouds and vapours are formed by the intermediate contact of the electric fluid with watery particles, by which they are kept in a state of suspension, and by the disengagement of the same fluid they become condensed, and fall to the earth in the shape of rain. “There is reason to believe that the mountainous tract of country, which extends the whole length of our western coast, from Cornwall to the north of Scotland, and continues in the same direction through Orkney and Shetland, has a considerable influence on our climate; for this elevated conducting surface must draw off much of the electric matter from the warm humid air of the great western ocean, by our most prevailing winds, the west and south-west; and thus dispose the clouds to precipitate their moisture, on their entrance, more than during their future passage over the island.* And it may be added, that when westerly winds are prevalent, the vapours, before their arrival at the eastern side of the island, pass over Ireland, the climate of which, being naturally humid, from its vicinity to the ocean, and the clouds having so short a portion of sea to pass, the nature of the air is scarcely changed; so that when the wind is in that point, the inhabitants of Wales seldom fail to experience more or less falling weather. Another cause is deduced by the late ingenious naturalist, Mr. White,† for the prodigious condensation of moisture in alpine countries, the dashing of moving clouds against the mountains. In misty days this may be seen in plains; where an eminent tree, by obstructing the mist in its course, will have a much greater quantity of moisture drop from its leaves, than falls at the same time to the ground in its vicinity.

Humid as the climate of Wales must consequently be, from this vaporous state of its atmosphere, yet the air is in general highly salubrious, and the country healthy. Indeed scarcely a
cemetery

* Williams's Climate of Great Britain, in which very ingenious work, see more valuable information on this too much neglected subject.

† History of the Parish of Selborne.

cemetery through the principality, but bears some testimony to the longevity of the inhabitants; and many commemorative stones are seen marked with the lengthened age of approximations to a century of years; and even some instances of protractions beyond that extended span of human existence. This circumstance may arise, not only from the sharpness and salubrity of the air, which certainly must be allowed, are greatly contributive to health; but also from the general regular mode of living, suggested by frugality; and the undebilitating viands on which necessity obliges the natives to subsist.

“ These ragged rocks, bring plainest people forth,
On mountaine wyld the hardest horse is bred;
Though grasse thereon, be grosse, and little worth,
Sweet is the foode, where hunger so is fed.
On rootes and hearbs, our fathers long did feede;
And near the skye, growes sweetest fruit indèede.
No ayre so pure and wholesome as the hill,
Both man and beast, delights to be thereon.
The mountayne men, live longer many a yeere,
Than those in vale, in playne, or marrish soyle:
A lustie hart, a cleane complexion cleere
They have on hill, that for hard living toyle.*”

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS, &c.---Few countries can vie with Cambria in the multifarious variety of its productions, though none have perhaps so long, and undeservedly been neglected. Although the Romans were aware of the comparative value of this part of the island, and converted much of the natural produce to account, yet for centuries was this rich source of national wealth disregarded, the prolific depot of nature despised; and because the casket appeared uncouth and rough, no inquiries were made after the jewels it contained. The arguments adduced by the admirable Swede, for persons examining into the productions of their native soil, apply with peculiar propriety, and force to the people of this country; for whoever has travelled in Wales with an observant eye, will want no inducement to devote himself with ardour to the study of nature, who here
appears

* Churchyard's Worthies of Wales, p. 109, &c.

appears in every variety of form, and clothes herself in all the diversity and richness of the gayest attire. The mountains, whose sides are covered with rare and uncommon vegetables, have their bowels replete with the most useful minerals. The numerous lakes, rivers, and streams teem with almost every kind of fresh-water fish; while the sea environing the coasts, affords a luxuriant addition. Of the feathered tribes, many species, not found in other parts of the island, are inhabitants of this, and some animals rarely to be met with, still frequent the wilds of this diversified country. The *goat* is here found in his ferine state, and is far superior in size, and both in the length and fineness of his hair, to that of most other mountainous countries, "we have seen the horns of a Cambrian he-goat three feet two inches long, and three feet from tip to tip."* Though this useful animal has been long domesticated, yet many of the inhabitants in North Wales, particularly in Caernarvonshire, and Merionethshire, suffer the goats to run in a wild state, to browse the Alpine shrubs, and bound from crag to crag. These they are accustomed to kill during autumn, for the sake of their fat and skins; either by shooting them with bullets, or running them down with dogs, like deer. Thus goat-shooting, and goat-hunting still remain among some of the favourite diversions of the people in Wales. *Roebucks* were anciently numerous, as appears from the laws of Howel Dda; in which the skin of one of these animals, and that of a she goat, were equally appreciated. But of late they have been confined to the most intricate parts of the country, and instances of seeing any extremely rare. The *Pine Martin*, in Welsh called *Bela goed*, inhabits some of the wooded parts of Merionethshire and Caernarvonshire. The beaver, designated in the Welsh laws under the appellation of *Llostlydan*, or the broad-tailed animal, and described by Giraldus, as a native of Wales, is no longer to be found; but the *difrgi*, or *Otter*, is a constant attendant on the piscatory lakes. "The seals are natives of our coasts, and are found most frequently between Llyn in Caernarvonshire, and the

* Pennant's British Zoology, Vol. I. p. 86.

the northern parts of Anglesea: they are seen often towards Carrig y moelrhon, to the west of Bardsey, or Ynis Enlli; and the Skerries, commonly called in the British language, Ynys y moelrhoniad, or seal-island.’’* Among the land and sea birds Wales has numbers in common with England,† and some peculiar to itself. Of the latter description is the *Falco chryseus*, or *golden Eagle*, that breeds among the Snowdonian mountains which have thence been supposed to derive their appellation, *Creigiau'r Eryrau* or the eagle rocks.

The *peregrine Falcon*, supposed to be the bird which furnished the amusement of falconry to our ancestors, and formed a sort of criterion for nobility, breeds prolifically among the rocks of Llandidno in Caernarvonshire. The *Smerlus*, or merlin, used in hawking, migrates from Wales to England generally in September. The *Strix otus*, or *long-eared owl*, may almost exclusively be claimed as a native of this country, *Moor-fowl*, or *Grouse*, invite numerous sportsmen during the shooting season, to visit the alpine wilds of Cambria. The *Rallus Crex*, or *Water Rail*, is a constant visiter of Anglesea, early in the spring. And the island of Priestholm may be said to receive an annual visitation from the immense flocks of the *Alca arctica*, or *Puffin*, about the same time of the year. The *Colymbus troile*, or *Guillemot*, during the winter, frequents the Welsh coast, as does the *Larus marinus*, or *black-backed Gull*. That rare aquatic bird the *Pelecanus graculus*, or the *Shag*, has been sometimes known to make his appearance on the shore near Holyhead. The *Corvus Caryocatactes*, or *Nutcracker*, afforded a solitary instance of his appearance, one having been shot in Flintshire. With respect to *maritime* fish, as migratory animals, though the coasts of Wales are visited by a vast variety, they do not possess an exclusive right upon the basis of locality; yet Mr. Pennant claims, as Welsh fish, the Beaumaris shark; the trifurcated hake; the gattorugine

* Pennant's Brit. Zool. Vol. I. p. 140.

† Perhaps the greater part in the list of English birds, with the exception of the charming songstress of the night, the *nightingale*, who is never heard to chant her plaintive song amidst the mountains of Wales.

Gathurigin and the trimaculated with the striped and gibbous wrasse. Among the numerous fish, which abound in the rivers of Wales, in addition to those generally known in England, may be noticed the *crooked Perch* found in Llyn Raithlyn, Merionethshire; the *Salmo erwx*, or *Sewin*, frequenting several rivers in this country. The *deformed Trout*, taken in the river Eynion near Machynlleth, and elsewhere.* The *Samlet*, frequent in the upper part of the Severn and the Wye; the *Torgoch*, or red Char; the *gilt* or *silver Char*; and the *Salmo lavaretus*, or *Gwiniad*. Some of these however are not exclusively peculiar to the principality, but are found in some of the rivers in Scotland, and in the lakes of Westmoreland and Cumberland. Respecting the VEGETABLE productions, so profuse has nature been in the display of her variegating powers, and so numerous are the rare and curious plants in this alpine region, that to particularize them, would be to compose a botanical nomenclature. Suffice it to notice a *few*, as specimens of the whole, referring the reader to authors, who have treated particularly on the subject.

Among a few, the habitats of which are almost exclusively confined to Wales, is one of the most beautiful indigenous plants of Great Britain, *Pulmonaria maritima*, Sea Bugloss; *Cerastium latifolium*, woolly mouse-ear Chickweed; *Silene acaulis*, moss Campion; *Saxifraga nivalis*, clustered-flowered alpine Saxifrage; *Geum rivale*, red water Avens; *Dryas octopetala*, mountain Avens; the elegant little plant *Thalictrum alpinum*, alpine meadow Rue; *Bartsia viscosa*, yellow marsh Eye-bright; *Sisymbrium monense*, isle of Man Rocket; *Hieracium alpinum*, alpine Hawkweed; *Serratula alpina*, alpine Sawwort; *Jasione montana*, scabious Rampion; *Ophrys corallorhiza*, coral-rooted Ophrys; the singular *Dortmanna lobbii*, water Gladiole; *Chara flexilis*, smooth Chara; *Veronica hybrida*, Welsh Speedwell; *Valeriana rubra*, red Valerian; *Festuca vivipara*, viviparous fescue Grass; the handsome *Lavatera*

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vatera

* Upon this curious phenomenon, see a dissertation on some of the Cambrian fish, by the Honourable Dames Barrington, published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1767.

vatera arborea, sea tree Mallow; *Lathyrus latifolius*, broad-leaved everlasting Pea; *Solidago virga-aurea* Cambrica, Welsh Golden-rod; *Osmunda regalis*, flowering Fern; *Isoetes lacustris*, Quill wort; *Cheiraunthus sinautus*, Sea Stock; *Trollius Europæus*, Globe-flower; *Rosa spinosissima*, burnet Rose; *Pyrus torminalis*, wild service Pear tree, *Gentiana pneumonanthe* marsh Gentian; *Campanula latifolia*, giunt Bell-flower; *Viola lutea*, yellow Violet; *Eriophorum polystachion*, Broad-leaved Cotton-grass; *Narthecium ossifragum*, bone-breaking Asphodel; *Scilla verna*, vernal Squill; *Triglochin maritimum*, Sea Arrow-grass; *Rubus chamæmorus*, Cloud-berry; *Pavaver Cambricum*, Yellow Poppy; *Glaucium luteum*, horned Poppy; *Iberis nudicaulis*, naked-stalked Candy-tuft; *Brassica oleracea*, Sea cabbage; *Carduus heterophyllus*, melancholy Thistle; *Zanichellia palustris*, horned Pond-weed; *Betula nana*, dwarf Birch; the odoriferous-rooted *Rhodiola rosea*, Rose-wort; the elegant *Chlora perfoliata*, yellow perfoliate century; the beautifully trailing *Arbutus uva ursi*, Bear berries; and the surprising vegetable automaton the *Ruppia maritima*, sea Ruppia.

The *mineral* productions of Wales form the most interesting part of the subject, and furnish an inexhaustible source, at least for ages to come, of profitable investigation to individuals, and of national wealth. Previously however to giving a few general remarks on the mineralogy of the country, it will be advantageous both in this respect, and in the more detailed account of particular mines, that will accompany the local descriptions, to delineate the structure of these mountainous tracts, within the viscera of which the greater part of the subterraneous treasures are included. The mountains and hills of Cambria may be separated into three distinct classes, viz. primitive, secondary, and derivative, which in a general view may also be distinguished by the peculiarities of their form, as well as their relative position. The primitive granite mountains consist of craggy steep rocks, tending in the ascent more or less towards an acute or slender pointed summit, the loftiest mountains are centrically situated in the chain, which com-

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mening and terminating in abrupt precipices with the insulated peaks, that interrupt the general outline, form a striking and distinctive character. The secondary mountains, chiefly composed of schistose substances, range next in the scale, and are distinguishable from the former by their inferior height, the evenness and squareness of the individual links which compose the chain, and by the easy waving, though varied, line of the general contour: instances of which are conspicuous in the Ferwyn and Breidden mountains previously described. The derivative, or calcareous and silicious hills, range considerably lower than the secondary or slate mountains, usually rising by a gradual ascent at one extremity, and terminating abruptly at the other. The limestone hills frequently assume a pyramidical shape, while the ridges of the sand rocks, and banks, are broader and rounder than those of lime. These however often trap into each other, and then little dissimilarity is discoverable in their form.

“ The Welsh primitive mountains in mass contain no metals, copper is however found in several in the hornstone *stratified* mountains, of which the Parys mine, and those at Llanberis and Pont-Aberglaslyn are examples. In these mines the ore is for the most part yellow, sulphuret of copper, the green and blue malachites or carbonates of copper are found in lime stone, as at Ormes-head and Llanymynech hill; nor have I heard any instance of these two last mines furnishing copper in any state but that of Carbonate. Carbonated copper is also found in the calcareous cement of sand rocks.

Lead and calamine I believe are not to be found in North Wales, in any of the primitive stratified rocks. These metals are most frequently found in slate, with a matrix however of calcareous Spar, as in the vale of Conway at Llangynnog and the Snailbeach mines: they are frequently also found in limestone, as at Llanymynech, and Holywell. Respecting the formation of the above mentioned metals, it is not easy to give a tolerably probable opinion; it appears however, that carbonate of copper is of considerably later formation than the

sulphuret, the former probably originating from the decomposition of the latter, and depriving its acid from the carbonate of lime in which it is found. It is not likely that the lead found in limestone was originally formed elsewhere, because lead even in slate rocks, lies in a matrix of calcareous spar; and especially because it does not form thin strata between the strata of lime, as is the case with copper; but it traverses in a stream the several strata without any alteration in the line of its direction; to which may be added, that sulphuret of lead is the general state in which the metal is found, both in the slate rocks and limestone, the carbonate being equally rare in both situations.

There is no coal found in North Wales between the primitive mountains and the slates: a very small quantity is procured between the slates and the limestone; but by far the most extensive beds are between the limestone and the sand rocks as about Wrexham and Coalbrook dale, or between these last and the alluvial hills as round to Wolverhampton”*.

The strata generally most productive of the metallic ores are limestone. Most species of whinstones, or the argillaceous mountain rocks, of which there are many varieties appearing in thick, thin, and mediate strata; some of these rocks are moderately, and others exceedingly hard. They assume various colours, though principally one or other of the numerous shades of grey. Several rich and valuable mines are however discovered in granite or moor-stone mountains. These three orders or classes of rocks, with their concomitant strata, are usually intersected by mineral fissures, and contain the largest quantity of mineral substances, and metallic ores. Limestone is a very common repository of the precious and useful metals in many parts of England, particularly in Derbyshire. In Scotland the most productive veins of metal are found in granite rocks. But of all classified strata in which the richest mineral veins have been discovered the indurated argillaceous mountain rocks are the most prolific, and extensive,

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour, &c. p. 223.

tensive. Many of the mines in North Wales, nearly the whole of the numerous rich and valuable lead mines in the county of Cardigan, and most of the mines in other parts of South Wales, are found in this kind of matrix, or strata.

The principal subterraneous substances, produced in Wales, may be divided into three classes viz. metalline, mineral, and lapideous: and the places where they are dug receive the distinctive appellations of mines, pits, or quarries.

Silver is obtained in considerable quantities, though not at present found in what may be exclusively denominated silver mines. Cwmsymlog mine in Cardiganshire consists of silver ore, lead ore, and quartz: which from the rich produce of the more precious metal, formerly obtained by Sir Hugh Middleton, received the appellation of the Welsh Potosi. Darenvawr, Darenvach, Goginan Cwm Evyn, and Mynyddbach contain similar substances to those of Cwmsymlog, though not equally productive in silver. Llanvair is at present the richest mine worked in the principality; comprising silver, lead, quartz, spar with a small portion of copper, and yields about one sixth of lead ore. About sixty to eighty ounces of silver are extracted from a ton of ore, and twelve hundred and a half weight of lead.

Copper. This very useful metal, which was known and properly appreciated by the Romans while in possession of Britain, is abundant through different parts of the island, but was not an object of commercial investigation till within about two centuries ago; nor in Wales to any considerable purpose till the middle of the last. The copper works of the Romans lay for ages, neglected, and to the public and enterprising spirit of Nicolas Bailey, the country owes the revival of research for this valuable metal. Parys mountain in Anglesea consists wholly of copper, either in a state of native copper, sulphate, black ore, or malachite: the matrix is a dark grey chert, and the superstratum aluminous slate. Though the ores obtained from this and the adjoining Mona mine, are not equally rich in metal with those found in Cornwall; yet from the fa-

cility, and consequently small expence at which they are obtained, the mines form a prolific source of wealth to the proprietors.

The copper ore found at Llanberris in Caernarvonshire is of a very superior quality to that of Parys mountain, yielding from eight to ten per cent weight of metal. This ore subsists in the primitive stratified rocks, and generally in a matrix of schistose hornblende, or quartz. The same mountainous ridge, consisting principally of whin and hornstone, divided by the immense chasm over which is thrown the bridge called Pont-aberghlaslyn, contains another copper mine, producing ore similar in quality to that of Llanberris; and it is highly probable the whole of this district is pregnant with copper. Some copper, but in no great quantity, is procured from two mines near the summit of a mountain, which forms the promontory called the Ormes-head in the parish of Llandudno, the eastern boundary of Beaumaris bay. The ore is malachite, or green carbonate of copper, and lies between the limestone strata, at the depth of fifty feet.

Escair vraith mine in Cardiganshire consists of copper ore, spar, quartz, and a substance, termed by the miners gozin, which forms an envelope to the quartz. The ore contains eight parts quartz, one of gozin and one twentieth copper. Several trials for working this mine were made at different times, but none succeeded till the year 1773, when the vein of copper was first discovered; and about twenty tons of ore were raised; but though the ore in the year 1791 sold as high as 25*l.* per ton, yet the valuable concern has been for several years entirely neglected. In Llanymynech rock Montgomeryshire, consisting of limestone, are shallow pits, the remains of Roman copper works, and numerous pieces of copper lie loose about the surface. Indeed the whole mass of the hill seems more or less impregnated with this metal, for wherever it is uncovered, evident cupreous marks are clearly visible.

Lead is a metal of almost universal conveniency, and for which this island was always famous. Lead mines at a very early period in the history of Britain were esteemed what
they

they are actually at the present period a grand source of national wealth. These were probably worked by the Britons, but certainly by the Romans; for one of their most learned writers * informs us, the produce was so abundant, that it was deemed necessary to form regulations for the trade, and fix a ratio respecting the quantity to be raised. The ore appears in numerous forms, and thence receives different appellations. Sometimes from the colour, it is termed grey, blue, or white ore; from the texture, springy, cross-grained, or steel-grained ore; and from the position in the mine, flat plated, or bellied ore; but the most common sort is the cubic, diced, or potters ore; so called from its general use in the glazing various kinds of earthen ware.

This metal is found in a variety of places through Wales, but particularly in the counties of Flint, Caernarvon, Montgomery, Caermarthen, and Cardigan; indeed the latter may be considered as the most extensive and richest mining field in Britain. A mineral tract stretches from Pen yr allt or Bryn digri in a line to the western borders of the parish of Holywell in Flintshire, and is known under the name of the Whiteford rake. "The ores differ in quality, the lamellated or common kind, usually named potter's ore, yields from fourteen hundred to sixteen hundred and a quarter of lead, from twenty hundred of the ore: but the last produce is rare †." The veins are found either in chert or limestone rocks, and some of the best ore has been dug at the depth of ninety yards. In this tract several levels have been driven and shafts sunk, and lead continues to be obtained in very considerable quantities. Between Gwydir and Capel Cerrig in Caernarvonshire, within an extensive dip between lofty mountains, are very extensive lead works. The surrounding rocks consist of slate, bituminous shale, and trap or whin; the matrix of the ore quartz, and calcareous spar; the product lead and calamine, mixed with iron ochre, and a small quantity of copper pyrites: these dif-

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* Plinii Hist. Nat. Lib. xxxiv. cap. 17.

† Pennant's History of the parishes of Whiteford and Holywell, p. 124.

ferent substances are so blended, that in the same specimen a variety of them may be found. The pits are very numerous, and the ore principally lies about twelve feet beneath the surface.

The great lead mine in the parish of Llangynnog, called Craig-ymwyn, which formerly afforded to the owner of Powis castle an annual revenue of several thousand pounds, is situated in the mountainous ridge, that divides the vales of Rhaiader and Tanad. The vein of ore in this mine was three yards and a half thick, worked to the depth of a hundred yards, previous to its being inundated with water, and yielded annually four thousand tons; which at seven pounds per ton, would produce a clear profit of twenty thousand pounds*. It has lately been drained of the water by driving a level into the hill, and again worked by a company of mining adventurers. There are other small mines, belonging to independent proprietors, at a short distance from the village of Llangynnog. The rock in which the shafts are sunk is a coarse slate, abounding with white amorphous quartz, that contains considerable quantities of lead and calamine.

In Caermarthenshire the lead mines in the vicinity of Llandovery, formerly supplied the smelting works near Caermarthen: but they have of late been entirely neglected. The district of this county adjacent to Cardiganshire evidently abounds with various mineral substances, among which, from the shape of the hills, and the nature of the strata, lead is probably the most predominant. But Cardiganshire may be denominated the region of lead mines, the whole country apparently having its rocks cemented together with veins of this metal. For a vast extent the land is excavated, and the surface covered with the openings of mines at present worked, or the vestiges of numerous others, that have furnished their subterraneous treasures to remote generations. Lead ore is procured from the mines previously noticed, as producing silver.

The

* Pennant's Tour in North Wales.

The principal lead mines in this county are Cwmystwyth, Llewerneg, Inys Cynvelin Penybanch, Bron-y-goch, Llwynwnwch, Grogwnion, Gellau Erin, and Nant y Crier. Besides these, there are many of minor consideration, some of which are worked with varied success, and others that have been abandoned as unprofitable speculations. The ore found in most of the Cardiganshire mines is nearly of a similar nature, consisting chiefly of lead, mixed with quartz and spar, accompanied frequently with quantities of an ore of zinc, denominated by the miners, from its dark appearance, *black jack*. This, which formerly was appropriated for the repair of the roads, has lately been discovered to be a valuable article, constituting an excellent flux for brass; and mixed in due proportions with copper, making a hard handsome metal, similar to the orichalcum of the ancient Romans.

Iron the most useful, and, through the wise distribution of Providence, the most common, of all metals is plentifully dispersed over the British isles; and Wales is not deficient in this particular. Yet notwithstanding the mountains of this country are full of iron stone, it was not till within about half a century, that the public attention was turned to this inexhaustible source of internal wealth. Iron is most abundant in South Wales, though evident marks of its existence may be traced in North Wales*. Several species of it have been discovered, viz. hematites, kidney ore, or compact brown iron stone; grey ore or black iron stone; bog ore or swampy iron stone, and a variety of sulphurated and arsenical ores, which class under the general denomination of pyrites; but the kidney and grey ores are the most frequently found. The principal iron works are Merthyr Tydvil, Aberdare, and Cyfartha in Glamorganshire; and the Union, Llanelly, Beaufort works and Hirwin furnace in Brecknockshire.

Coal. It has generally been remarked, that wherever iron is discoverable, coal is not far distant; either under laying it,
or

* Iron has lately been procured, and works erected in the vicinity of Ruabon in Denbighshire.

or lying in collateral strata. This eligible substitute for ligneous fuel, is found in every county of Wales, except Cardigan, Merioneth, and Caernarvon, and perhaps time will evince, that those are not destitute of this primary article of convenience. In North Wales the principal coal works are in the vicinity of Caergwrle, at Bagilt near Holywell, and Bychton and Mostyn in the parish of Whiteford, Flintshire; near Chirk, Ruabon, and Wrexham, in the county of Denbigh; at several places along the line of the canal in Montgomeryshire, and Maltraeth, Anglesea. So plentiful are coals in the four southernmost counties of the principality, that it is only to sink in certain directions, to be assured of ultimate success. The coal sometimes underlays the calcareous strata, or in the miners phrase, has a limestone roof; but more frequently it is found on the northern or southern side of a limestone ridge; and when a tract of low land is included between two such ridges, it may be inferred, that coal lies beneath. Two parallel lines of calcareous strata extend through South Wales in an easterly direction, from St. George's channel across the whole country. These are accompanied by two lines of coal. Both are not uniformly visible together, but often where the coal grasses or appears near the surface, the limestone dips, or inclines towards the centre of the earth, and vice versa. Upon the first or upper line, coals have been found in different points, viz. at Johnston, Picton, Jeffreston, and Begeley, Pembrokeshire. Thence keeping on the southern side of the limestone ridge it crosses the Towy, forming the bar at the mouth of that river; and passing through the upper part of Caermarthenshire*, Brecknockshire, and Monmouthshire, crosses the Severn to the collieries of Kingswood, near Bristol.

The second or lower line commences near Williamston in Pembrokeshire, and parallel with the limestone takes the water beyond the coal works at Sandersfoot in the bay of Tenby; then crossing the peninsula of Gower it again dips in Swansea bay, re-appears

* The coal pits near Llangyndeyrn in this county point out the bearing of this first line.

re-appears near Kinfig in Glamorganshire, passes Caerphili castle, visits Newport, Monmouthshire, where numerous collieries are worked; and crossing the Severn sea is again discoverable in the same direction at the coal works of Paulton and Radstock in the county of Somerset. On the same bearing these lines might be further traced both in an easterly and westerly direction, and will serve as a clue to other lines of coal ground in the stratified tracts throughout the kingdom.

Almost all the varieties of coal are produced in Wales. What is called the *Newcastle* coal, from large quantities being dug in the vicinity of that town, and carried coastwise for the supply of the metropolis, is found in several parts of the principality. This is a caking coal, of a fat bituminous or resinous quality, which melts in the fire, and when thoroughly heated runs together in one mass, burning to a cinder with a thick fuliginous smoke; and, if the best sort, produces but a small quantity of ashes.

A second kind is the *rock coal*, which is a free coal of various degrees of strength and hardness, of a good black colour, though not so bright and glossy as the Newcastle coal; produces more ashes, and does not cake or cohere during combustion.

Stone or *splent coal* is of a laminated or slaty structure, burning freely with a strong flame and much smoke; is remarkably hard, splits easily into thin broad flags, but is broken with difficulty across the bed of the strata, except at what are termed, the natural transverse cutters. This species is ponderous, very tenacious of the igneous principle, and the best for culinary and other domestic uses.

Cannel, or parrot coal,* is of a fine black colour and a smooth uniform

* The learned Dr. Davies observes, that the name is derived from the British word *canwyll* a candle, which the flame afforded by the ignition of this kind of coal amply supplies. This is the lapis ampelitis or vine stone of the ancients, which name it obtained from the reputed property of its ashes being an effectual antidote against the disease of vines, occasioned by certain worms that frequently infest them; and it is still used on many parts of the continent, as the most esteemed manure or rather top-dressing for vine-yards.

uniform texture, has a considerable hardness and breaks in any direction. This species of coal, when free from heterogeneous mixtures, is of comparatively small specific gravity, makes a chearful fire, burns with a strong flame, and emits little smoke. Some varieties of it are so fine and solid in the contexture, as to be capable of being turned in the lathe, and formed into various utensils, toys, and trinkets, as it is susceptible of a very high polish, and leaves no stain upon the fingers.

Culm, or *blind coal*, in England denominated Welsh coal, because almost peculiarly the produce of Wales, is of a fine glossy black colour and a bright metalline appearance. This is a very singular species of coal, producing neither smoke nor flame in burning. Though it is not easily kindled, yet when thoroughly ignited it burns a long time with a clear, powerful, glowing heat, similar to charcoal; being very durable and like that, during combustion, emits a strong disagreeable suffocating effluvia. This coal is very tender, and generally breaks small in working and carriage; but possesses nothing of the cohering quality, produces a small quantity of ashes; and the property of burning without smoke renders it fit for drying malt, hops, and other purposes where coak or charcoal would be necessary. A remarkable phenomenon arises from the combustion of this species of coal. When a quantity of culm has been some time ignited, and after every particle of it has been burning with a clear glowing heat, if the fire be extinguished or suffered to go out for want of air, what remains in the grate or furnace bears no pyritous marks. Even the surfaces of the remaining small pieces, which remain unconsumed, retain the same glossy black colour, the same texture and bright appearance as at first, and partly resemble some other species of flaming and fuliginous coal.

The schistose mountains of Wales afford another substance if not of equal importance, yet of general utility. *Slates*, customarily denominated Cornish tile, because originally procured from Cornwall, constitute an elegant roofing far superior in cheapness to that of lead, for which it is latterly become a very
common

common substitute. Long was the trade in slates confined to Cornwall and Westmoreland, but now both North and South Wales furnish slate equal in quality to any brought from either of those counties. The quarries are very numerous scattered over the country, but the principal are those of the Rheidiol near Aberystwith, Cardiganshire; Llangynnog, Montgomeryshire; and the extensive ones in Snowdonia, Caernarvonshire. Those at the former place produce specimens of the large and coarsest kind of slate, which lie in compact masses, resembling flag stone, of a rough texture, but separating easily into large plates. The slate of Llangynnog rock divides into large plates, is not quite of so coarse a quality, and forms a very profitable building article. These quarries, Mr. Pennant observes*, yielded from November 1775 to the same month in 1776, 904,000, which were sold from six to twenty shillings, per thousand. The Snowdonian slates are generally of a very fine grain, a beautiful blue colour, and when quarried, separate into exceeding thin laminæ; properties, which render them peculiarly eligible for handsome roofing, and manufacturing into writing slates. The quantities procured from this district has of late years been so great, that the export trade of the article only, has converted a small insignificant creek into Port Penhryn. On viewing these different apertures of the schistose mountains a striking geological fact will result, correspondent with the principle of uniform, though unequal declivity. The slates it is observable are always coarsest in their texture on the northern or north-western sides of the ridge, and less so on the south and south-western sides; becoming gradually finer, as they approximate the limestone hills.

Numerous quarries of other valuable stones are opened in various places, which will be duly noticed in the description of their respective localities; viz. different kinds of marble fit for monuments, columns, chimney-pieces, and other ornamental sculpture and masonry; serpentine, and other species of hone stone; chert or petrosilex, and pure quartz, for the use

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* Tour in Wales

of the potteries. Nor should that very rare and curious substance be forgotten which furnishes the asbestos, a substance indestructible by fire, found on the shores of Anglesea.

In adverting to these diversified subterraneous treasures, the mind is naturally induced to enquire the era of their discovery, and the mode of their realization. Though it is probable the early Britons were not ignorant of the use of metals, yet they doubtless owed much to their first invaders, respecting minerals, and the working of mines. Copper appears to have been an object of pursuit with the Romans on their arrival in this island, remains of smelting furnaces having been discovered, and cakes of that metal found, marked with Roman letters, and the imperial stamp. Calamine, the *cadmia* of the ancients must also have been known to them, because essential to the making brass, of which most of the instruments they used in this country, appear to have been formed. Lead mines were also worked by that people, and probably silver extracted from the ore, traces of which have been observed both in North and South Wales; especially in the counties of Flint and Cardigan. Iron was known to the natives, previous to the Roman invasion, and a considerable iron manufacture was established in this country, according to the testimony of Strabo, anterior to the reign of Tiberius. The iron money, which constituted their circulating medium, as observed by Julius Cæsar, affords a demonstrative proof, that they were not unacquainted with smelting, forging, &c. The iron trade was doubtless considerably extended, and improved by the superior skill of the Romans, but they were not in possession of the art of extracting all the metal from the ore, as is evident by the heaps of cinders still lying near their ancient bloomeries. Coals Mr. Pen-
nant* supposes were also known prior to the arrival of the Romans; from the Britons having a name for them, in their language, *glo*, and the circumstance of a flint axe, a common instrument of the aboriginal natives, having been found stuck
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* Tour in Wales.

in a vein of coal at Craig y parc in Monmouthshire. Of this early discovery little can be said, because little is known. Hume refers the epoch to the thirteenth century. By an extent issued in the twenty third year of king Edward the first, however it appears, that Mostyn colliery in the parish of Whiteford, Flintshire, was worked during that monarch's reign*: and in the twelfth century coal is mentioned in the *Acta regia* both of England and Scotland †. But allowing the discovery to be no further remote, the progress of its introduction to general use was very slow, even after wood became a scarce and expensive article of fuel. The smoke arising from *mineral* coal, as it was then termed, was by many deemed very pernicious to health, so late as the sixteenth century; for it is reported, that the lord chancellor Burleigh, in the reign of Elizabeth, was accustomed to have the coals for the use of his house, brought coastwise from Pembrokeshire; because they emitted less smoke than those imported from the north of England.

The Britons, as previously observed, understood the use of metals, and were further instructed in the arts of mining and metallurgy by the intelligent Romans; but after the departure of the latter, self preservation necessarily would monopolize their attention, and peaceful science be obliged to succumb under the devastating hand of war. Yet their mines were not wholly neglected, for it was probably by means of this subterraneous wealth, that the Welsh were enabled to support against the English an unequal warfare for so long a time. During centuries after the conquest, in England the crown asserted its exclusive right to all mines and minerals. No person could search for ore unless empowered by a royal grant, and the conditions imposed were at the discretion of the monarch. Edward the first, on his effecting the conquest of Wales, extended his mining authority over that country, directing

* Pennant's Hist. of Whiteford and Holywell.

† Arnot's History of Edinburgh.

directing by mandate the tithe of ore, dug in the Welsh mines, to be paid to the respective churches in the vicinity. Nor does it appear, that the proprietor of the land on which a mine was opened, had any share in the profits, till the reign of Henry the sixth: when the duke of Bedford obtained a lease for ten years of all the gold and silver mines within the kingdom, on condition of paying a tenth part of the proceeds to the church, a fiftieth to the king, and a twentieth to the owner of the land. This grant extended to all other mines, containing gold and silver; for by the convenient chicanery of the law, all mines producing the least particle of either of those precious metals, was, by constructive reasoning, made to come within the grant. This was a great discouragement to mining in general, and a cruel hardship upon individuals. Nor was the science of mineralogy, or the art of mining likely to make much progress in a period, when miracles were admissible not only in religion, but the arts: when the *transmutation of metals* obtained the same implicit credit, as the transubstantiation of the sacramental elements; and the transmuters were shielded by royal protection. Queen Elizabeth, however, adopted a sound policy in this respect. Following the advice of her council, she sent over for some experienced Germans, to conduct the business of the mines, as well as smelting the ores and refining the metals. By her letters patent she granted licence to Thomas Thurland, and Daniel Houghsetter, and their heirs for ever, to search for mines of gold, silver, &c. &c. through several specified English counties, and the whole principality of Wales. A year afterwards she made two more grants to Cornelius Devosse and Christopher Shutz. These patentees, by virtue of the powers annexed to the several grants, divided part of their tenure into shares for sale: and they, with the purchasers of such shares, were incorporated by the style of the “governor assistants and commonality of the mines royal.” Under this company the celebrated Sir Hugh Middleton, farmed the principal silver and lead mines in Cardiganshire, the profits of which enabled him to undertake that extraordinary effort of human ingenuity

and perseverance, the new river, which partially supplies with water the city of London. But though the foundation was thus laid for the present success in mining and mineralogy, on which are dependant, many of those numerous manufactures that give Britain such a decided superiority in foreign markets; yet very little of much importance was effected, till the reign of Charles the first. According to the testimony of Schlutter the lead mines in Flintshire were not worked before the year 1698, when Dr. Wright and his associated adventurers established a smelting house at Halkin. The subsequent extension of mining concerns was encouraged by the repeal of former restrictive statutes, and the enactment in the first year of King William and Mary, that persons having mines of copper, tin, lead, &c. shall enjoy the same although claimed as royal mines; the king having the right of pre-emption in the ore, at certain regulated prices *, except in Devonshire and Cornwall.

AGRICULTURE, BRIDGES, ROADS, and CANALS. Wales in a general view may be considered a century, at least, behind England as to its state of *agriculture*. The Welsh farmer stumbles on the very threshold. His mode of ploughing bears no relation, either to the nature of the soil or the seed to be committed to it. The course of crops also is violently outrageous in its demands on the pabula of the land. Wheat is not generally grown, and other white crops, such as barley and oats, succeed each other in rotation, till nature, wearied with the burthen, refuses to bear it any longer: and tired of the numerous progeny she has unreasonably been forced to support, evinces her inability to afford them any further sustenance; and the fields, thus naturally, laid down to grass exhibit a dreary aspect of dwindling vegetation, as disgraceful to the cultivator, as it is lamentable to the beholder. After thus depriving the glebe of all its strength, the Welsh farmer takes no effectual steps to re-

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* On condition, that there was paid to the owners within thirty days, after the ore should be raised, and before removed, for copper ore, washed and made merchantable, 16l. per ton; for lead 9l. and for tin or iron 2l.

pair the loss, being equally ignorant of the means of amelioration, as of the derivable benefits. Lime is generally had recourse to, and if this catholicon fail, he has arrived at his *ne plus ultra*. Marl is seldom sought for, and the plaister stone or alabaster, so successfully used as a manure in America, is entirely neglected in Wales. The general want both of upper, as well as under, draining is too obvious. For lack of which large tracts of fine levelled land, can only, in wet seasons, be partially brought into cultivation. Those grand conservatories of grass for spring feed, water-meads, so essential in a breeding district, are scarcely known; although in this country nature has formed many; and pointed out numerous facilities of making more. Weeds are suffered to increase, because they are considered serviceable to the future ley; by which half the crop is generally stifled or deprived of its requisite nourishment. The implements of husbandry are rude, and ill calculated for making a progress in agricultural amelioration: and the want of convenient outhouses forms a considerable drawback upon the profits of the farmer. Many of the errors so visible in the agriculture of this country, evidently arise from the ignorance, prejudice, indolence, and poverty of the tenants; but other causes are attributable to the proprietors of estates. One is, not granting proper leases, the lands for the most part being let from year to year. A still more injudicious custom, is the setting farms by auction.

Though this is the general state of agriculture through the principality yet striking, and honourable instances occur in divers places of more rational conduct. Many gentlemen are setting the example of the most improved practice, and manifesting that, lands in Wales with similar treatment, are capable of becoming equally productive with those of England. And what augurs well, as to future improvements is, that in almost every county has been formed an association of intelligent agriculturists, for the purposes of improving the country by the introduction and encouragement of a better system of husbandry. These, which have already produced the most salutary effects

effects will be duly noticed in the agricultural detail of each county. And a fine theatre is opened for the display of their labours in this grand work of amelioration, for, in addition to the slovenly state of farming, and the unproductive condition of estates in general, there are in Wales more than 150,000 acres of waste lands; part of which would make excellent upland pasture, part is capable of being converted into excellent arable; and a large portion well adapted for planting to advantage with timber trees. But so multifarious are the soils in different parts of this diversified country, so variable the practices of the several districts, and even of different places in the same; that no general account, however copious, would be adequate to convey any tolerably accurate view of this interesting subject. The reader must therefore be referred to the remarks which will occur in local description.

From the nature, as well as the number of the rivers in Cambria, the erection of *bridges*, must have excited, at an early period, the attention of the Welsh. For many of them are too deep to be fordable, some subject to such inundating bodies of water issuing from the mountains, during rains, as to be for days together impassable, at the usual fordable places: and others again flow through such narrow glens, and deep ravines, as to exhibit insurmountable barriers to the traveller, without the aid of what may be termed *pendent* bridges; that is, such as are thrown from crag to crag, at a prodigious height above the water. The difficulty of erecting such, has induced the vulgar to attribute their construction to infernal aid. Of this kind, is the bridge, or rather two bridges, on the Mynach, near Hafod in Cardiganshire, called Pont ar Mynach, forming a pass over an awful yawning chasm, through which the river rolls its waters to the Rheidiol. Another, but not equally exalted high in air, is called Pont-aber-glas-lyn, that forms a communication over a narrow defile in the mountainous ridge, separating the alpine counties of Caernarvon and Merioneth. Numerous bridges, consisting of a single arch each, of which number, is the celebrated and justly admired Pont y prydd, bestriding the boiste-

rous Taffe in Glamorganshire, are scattered over the country; and give to its scenery additional diversity and beauty. For almost the whole of this description in Wales, are formed of a small segment of a large circle, and from the different sweeps they take, according to the length of the respective chords, produce a countless variety. Among those bridges, composed of more than one arch, the triangular-arched bridge over the river Dee at Llangollen, is curious for its mode of construction, and great antiquity. The bridge across the Conwy near Llanrwst is an elegant structure, and does credit to the taste, as well as skill of the architect, Inigo Jones. The bridge of five arches at Bangor iscoed, in Flintshire, is a fine specimen of pontic masonry. The town of Caermarthen is entered by a long ancient handsome bridge; but the stupendous aqueduct, by which the continuation of the Ellesmere canal is carried over the river Dee at Pont Cyssyllte, between Llangollen, and Chirk in Denbighshire, is the chef d'oeuvre of this species of architecture; that can only be exceeded in grandeur or utility, by the projected bridge over the Menai straits, by which it is proposed to form a land communication between the county of Caernarvon and the island of Anglesea. This is an undertaking, which will be truly worthy the enterprising spirit of British genius. Though long famed for its bridges, yet Wales was nearly an utter strange, to what in most countries occasions their erection, *good roads*. Till within a few years past, this country merited the description, given by Johnstone in his *Idler*, to the Isle of Wight, "the land of pathless deserts." Except the two great mail-roads, forming the communication with the north and south of Ireland, by way of Milford and Holyhead, whence the packets sail to that country, scarcely a road could be found, calculated for the passing of carriages. To this essential point for profit, convenience and comfort, the great proprietors have of late years laudably directed their attention, and with the most beneficial effect. The country may now be traversed in almost every direction, and few towns are devoid of the accommodating vehicle, a post chaise. Many of
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the roads of the interior are narrow, and from the nature of the country, abound with frequent and long ascents and descents; but they are no longer what formerly they were, merely land-flood gullies, or narrow hollows, down the centre of which the waters flowed to the great annoyance and frequent peril of the traveller. Under the auspices of the public spirited nobleman, the late lord Penrhyn, a grand road has been cut through the immense range of lofty mountains, denominated Snowdonia, by which a fine extensive communication has been opened between the internal parts of North Wales and the coast,; and the great thoroughfare from London to Dublin by way of Holyhead diminished in length, compared with the former one, by way of Shrewsbury and Conway, twenty-five miles. Numerous roads have been widened, shortened, and otherwise ameliorated by the addition of drains, arches, bridges, &c. to the great accommodation of travellers, and general benefit of the inhabitants. Already has the country begun to experience the advantages by new communications having been opened for the produce of the interior, in the reduction of the rate of carriage, and easy access thus afforded for the postage of ponderous articles to the sea coast, or to the intercommunications with the navigable rivers, those water-ways of the Chinese, *inland canals*.

Bad roads, and a difficulty of communication between places distant from each other, occasion a kind of sterility in a country, and render most things much dearer and scarcer than they would otherwise be; and a nation placed in the most favourable climate, and blest with the most fertile soil, if it have bad roads, and be without the convenient modes of conveyance, will not be so rich and affluent as the less favoured in climate and soil, which possesses excellent roads and canals, supposing the genius and industry of both nations to be the same.

“ Good roads, canals, and navigable rivers,” observes an intelligent writer, “ by diminishing the expence of carriage, put the remote parts of a country more upon a level with those in the neighbourhood of large towns; they are, on that account,

the greatest of all improvements. They encourage the cultivation of remote parts, which must always be the most expensive circle of the country, and thereby rents are much improved. They are advantageous to towns by breaking up the monopoly of the country in their neighbourhood; and they are advantageous to that part of the country. Though they introduce some real commodities, they offer many new markets for produce.” * Canals may be considered as so many roads of a certain kind, on which one horse will draw as much as thirty, or on which one man and horse will transport as many goods as eighteen horses on ordinary roads. Much has been advanced on the probable advantages and disadvantages of an extensive inland navigation, and probably the decision of the question must be left to the judgment and experience of future generations. It has been stated on one side, that the partizans of canals have not failed to adopt a mode of reasoning, more specious than solid, by adverting to the advantages of this kind of communication between the extreme parts of the vast and populous empire of China, and the swampy morasses of Holland, which, without drains, would not only be impassable, but absolutely uninhabitable. Neither of which are apposite cases to make deductions from, for this island, the remotest parts of which from the sea are so small a distance, that with the assistance of its navigable rivers, land carriage becomes a trivial object in the value of its exports or imports. For it has been remarked, the very idea of a navigable river, the expences and the profits of which are to be defrayed out of the incumbent trade, pre-supposes much to be brought in, and much to be carried out, and consequently includes not only produce, but population. It might be therefore reasonable ground for hesitation, whether the benefit of a partial water carriage, in an inland part of the kingdom, where the produce and the consumption preserve nearly an equal pace with each other, will compensate for the loss of thousands of acres of the most valuable land

* Smith's Wealth of Nations, Vol. I. p. 229.

land thus rendered useless for the purposes of agriculture, and the multifarious injury done to the adjacent meadows by the oozing of the water through the banks; not to mention the abundance of depredations to which all kinds of property in the vicinity of a canal are obviously and unavoidably exposed. On the other hand it is remarked, that the line of a canal occupies but a very small space of ground, and instead of diminishing, it greatly increases the quantity of corn land by the conveyance it affords for manure to render productive barren soils. And a greater quantity of corn is left for the use of mankind, by the reduction of horses it occasions in the carrying business.

It has also been objected, that the increase of inland navigation must, by its superior cheapness and ease, certainly diminish our coasting trade, and consequently weaken the navy, the natural and constitutional bulwark of Great Britain. This objection is somewhat like the former one: it is regretting the enjoyment of an advantage, and the apprehension is apparently unfounded: for, as all the various branches of commerce mutually depend on, and support one another, the extension of the inland commerce will not diminish, but greatly enlarge the number of ships and seamen, especially the latter, by the accession of vast numbers of young men, trained up in the management of sails and oars, in parts of the country where no sail nor oar was ever seen before the introduction of canals. And experience has actually confirmed this reasoning, not only in the general increase of shipping, and consequently of seamen,* but by the certain knowledge, that the interior part of the country has began to rival the coast as a nursery of seamen, both for the merchant vessels and ships of war.

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* In the year 1760, just before the Duke of Bridgewater's first canal was finished, the ships cleared out of the ports of England were rated to carry 471,241 tons. In the year 1790, when almost all England was intersected by canals, their burthen was 1,379, 329 tons (regular measurement) which must have required considerably more than double the number of sailors; and there can be no doubt that the inland navigation has contributed its proportion to this great increase.

Another objection is, that vast sums of money have been sunk in making canals. But this is a very frivolous cavil. If an estate is productive, the owner will never object to its being too great. And this kind of property has never failed of being advantageous to the public, even in those instances, where it has not been profitable to the proprietors. But granting the worst, that the canal is useless to the public, and consequently a dead loss to the proprietors, there is still no national loss: the money is only transferred from the pockets of the numerous subscribers, who are generally in circumstances to bear the loss of the sums subscribed, into the hands of industrious mechanics and labourers, who immediately return it into the general circulation. None of it is either hoarded or sent out of the country. Many turnpike roads cost more by the mile than some canals do: and as one horse can draw as great a weight of goods upon a canal, as thirty can draw upon a road, the superior serviceableness and profit of the canals is obvious.

Improvements by internal navigation had been long neglected in this country; though equally capable of such advantages as England. Long had her mines of lead, copper, iron, coals, and many other minerals, lain entirely neglected for want of that spirit of trade and encouragement necessary for exploring the treasures contained in the bowels of her mountains; and, although late, yet she at last sees the advantage of canals, some of which are cut into the very hills which abound in every useful and necessary mineral; nor is the surface defective in the gifts of nature, for here is some of the finest ship building timber in the world, which, for ages in many places has been decaying for want of a proper conveyance to a market. The gentlemen of this country are at last awake to their true interest, by observing the conduct of their neighbours on the opposite side of the Severn, and at length, by a most laudable spirit of enterprise in the land owners, will doubtless be successful, and become a pattern for other parts of the country to follow after.

As it was expected and foretold, that unusual advantages
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might be expected from canals in this country; no sooner did such speculations begin, than the emulation of the neighbouring gentlemen and land owners was roused to a proper sense of the treasures, hid in the bowels of the mountains, and who are now increasing and further extending canal navigation, to bring those valuable minerals into use, not only to their own profit and advantage, but to the benefit of the whole country.

In North Wales the first project which struck the landed interest was, the junction of the navigation on the rivers Severn and Dee, by opening an aquatic communication through the counties of Denbigh and Flint with various ramifications into the mining and manufacturing districts in the adjacent counties. This plan was carried into effect by cutting a canal from the Severn near Shrewsbury, to the Dee in the vicinity of Chester, and from the original subscribers having held their meetings at the town of Ellesmere in Shropshire, or some other circumstance, it bears the inappropriate name of the *Ellesmere canal*.

“The act for this canal was obtained in 34. Geo. III. It joins the Severn on the northern side of Shrewsbury, at Bagley Bridge, and taking a north course, passes Newton, Walford, Basehurch, Weston, Lullingfield, and Hordley; here a cut branches to Llangmynech town and lime-works, being 12 miles; the canal then passes Francton common, from whence the Whitehaven branch commences; it is then continued and passing Ridges, by Old Martin, crosses the river Morlas, and soon after the river Ceiriog, then proceeds near to Chirk Castle, and crosses the river Dee at Pont-y-Cyssyllte, by a noble aqueduct; it then goes to Ruabon, Newhall, Bersham, Chapel, from whence the Frood branch proceeds, which is three and a half miles; it then passes Gresford, whence a branch of four miles goes to Holt; from thence it passes Pulford in a direct line, and Leach Hall, and crossing the Dee, passes on the West side of Chester, and then by Backford, Chorlton, Croughton, Stoke, Stanney, Whethby, and there joins the river Mersey, being 57 miles long, with 537 lockage. From the junction with the Severn at Bagley Bridge to Newton, is one mile and a quarter, with 110 feet

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rise;

rise; from thence to Francton common is fifteen and a half miles, with 42 feet rise; thence to Newmartin common is three and 1-4th miles, with 42 feet rise; thence to the river Dee is eight miles, on a level; directly from thence is 75 feet rise, in half a mile; thence to the Frood branch is eight and a half miles, and level, and the summit: thence to Chester is eleven and a half miles, and 380 feet fall; from thence to the Mersey is eight miles,"*

The Whitchurch branch joins it near Hordley, and extends fourteen miles.

The Llanymynech branch is twelve miles, with 21 feet fall, and proceeds from near Hordley, where it leaves the main line by Felton and Martyn Chapel to Llanymynech.

MONTGOMERY CANAL. The act for this canal was obtained 34. Geo. III. It unites with a branch of the Ellesmere canal, very near Llanymynech, and there crosses the river Vernwy, where it joins another branch of the Ellesmere canal; and then goes by Gwern-felu, where a cut branches off to Guilsfield and Welsh Pool; and from thence proceeds nearly parallel with the Severn by Berhiew to Newtown in Montgomeryshire. This canal is twenty-seven miles long, besides the cuts, and the lockage is 225 feet. The cut to Guilsfield is three and 1-4th miles, and level. This canal joining the Ellesmere, affords a ready conveyance to Shrewsbury and Chester; and should the one intended to be made from Newtown by Ludlow, form a junction with the Leominster canal, it will open a communication highly advantageous to the southern parts of the river Severn. Quarries of lime-stone, free-stone, slate, &c. as well as mines of coal, lead, and other minerals, are found on the borders of this canal its whole length, which will find a ready and cheap conveyance to a certain market, to the great emolument of the owners, as well as to the consumers and manufacturers.

South Wales preceded North Wales in this kind of improvement.

KIDWELLY CANAL. This canal is the private property of the two coheiresses of a Mr. Keymer, who cut this communication at

* See Philipp's History of Inland Navigation.

at his private expence, between three and four miles long, in his own estate, from the town of Kidwelly, in Carmarthenshire, to his coal mines and lime-stone works; which at the same time that it enriches the worthy and respectable proprietors, is of the greatest service and utility to the neighbourhood for miles around.

CARDIFF TO MERTHYR TYDVIL CANAL. In 1790 an act was obtained for cutting a canal from Cardiff to Merthyr Tydvil, a distance of 25 miles: it begins at Penarth, below Cardiff, and passes Llandaff and Pielly bridge to Merthyr Tydvil, and by a branch takes in those iron furnaces which have begun to work near Aberdare, and where, no doubt, from this easy conveyance, that new ones will be erected, as this facile and cheap carriage to a market for such heavy articles, is all that was wanted. The lime-stone and coals which before were useless to the owner now find, by this canal, a ready demand and easy carriage; and the works are become a prosperous and profitable undertaking. The fall from Merthyr Tydvil to Caerdiff is nearly 600 feet.

ABERDARE CANAL. The act for cutting this canal from the village of Aberdare, in the county of Glamorgan, was obtained 33 Geo. III. and joins the Glamorgan canal at the fork, made by the junction of the little river Cynon with the river Taffe. It goes through a beautiful country, parallel with the river Cynon to Aberdare, being in length seven miles and a half; the first part is level, but three miles next to Aberdare has a rise of 41 feet. There is a rail-way from Aberdare, which crosses the Cynon, near the village, and joins the Neath canal at Abernant, in length eight miles and a half.

NEATH CANAL. A canal from Neath to Furno Vaughan had long been in contemplation, and application was made to parliament in 1790, and an act was immediately granted for cutting a canal from Neath, in Glamorganshire, to Furno Vaughan in the same county, the mountains abounding in coals, lime-stone, iron ore, copper, lead, &c. This canal is about 12 miles long, and near the town of Neath joins the river Neath.

BRECKNOCK CANAL. The act for this canal was obtained 33 Geo. III. and unites with the Monmouth canal eight miles
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and a half from Newport,* and one mile from Pontypool. It crosses the river Avon, where by a tunnel it goes through the highlands there, about 220 yards in length, and passes the town of Abergavenny, towards the Usk, proceeding parallel with that river to Brecknock. From where it joins the Monmouth canal it is 11 miles to Abergavenny, and also for three miles farther it is level; from thence to Brecknock is eighteen miles and a half, with 68 feet rise; from Abergavenny to the canal is one mile, of rail-way; also from the canal at Cwm-Clydach to the Wain-Dew coal and iron-works there is a rail-way four miles and three quarters in length, and also another rail-road a mile and a quarter from the canal to Llangrenney, which crossing the river Usk.

SWANSEA CANAL. The act for this canal was obtained 34 Geo. III. and goes from the town of Swansea in Glamorganshire, by Llandwr, and thence runs parallel with the river Tawy, crosses the little river Twrch, and ends at Hen-noyadd. It is 17 miles long, and has 373 feet rise, that is to say, from Swansea to opposite Pont-ar-Tawy, which is eight miles and three quarters, it has 105 feet rise; thence to Pont Gwaynclawdd is eight miles, and has 230 feet rise; the other three-quarters of a mile rises 31 feet. This canal goes through a country like the last, plentiful in all kinds of ores and mineral substances.

In the year 1801 application was made to parliament, to obtain a bill for the cutting a navigable canal from Spitty, near the port of Llanelly, to the town of Llandovery, in Caermarthenshire; which would open a communication to the sea, through the whole interior of that extensive and rich county.

MANUFACTURES, COMMERCE, &c. Manufactures, till within a few years, were not very extensively diffused, nor could they be considered of much account in the general scale of productive industry. Wales, however, for centuries was celebrated for its flannels, and though competitors are found in Yorkshire and other parts of the north of England, yet the country may be still considered as standing unrivalled in the manufacture of this useful article. The trade is principally confined to North Wales.

* See the Beauties, Vol. XI. Monmouthshire, p. 29.

Wales, and the following statement extracted from an account drawn up by a person well acquainted with the subject, may serve as a tolerable view of the woollen trade.*

The different articles of manufacture are webs, flannels, stockings, wigs, gloves, and socks. Webs are distinguished by the trade into two sorts, 1. Strong or high country cloth. 2. Small or low country cloth.

1. Strong cloth is made in Merionethshire, and principally in the neighbourhood of Dolgellu and Machynlleth: at this latter place a manufactory on a small scale has lately been established, a circumstance only worthy of notice, as forming the commencement of a change in preparing the wool, which will probably soon become general.

Almost every little farmer makes webs, and few cottages in these parts are without a loom; all kinds of wool are used indiscriminately, and a considerable quantity of refuse from the wool-staplers and skimmers is collected from all quarters for this purpose. During a time of peace much Kentish wool used to be imported. Many farmers however employ wool of their own growth, and this produces by far the best kind of cloth. The standard width of this article is seven-eighths of a yard; the length of a piece, or what is emphatically styled a web, is about 200 yards: this consists of two ends, each 100 yards, thus divided for the conveniency of carriage. The quality is necessarily of various degrees. The market for this cloth was Shrewsbury; but it is now little more than nominally so. A market however is regularly held every Thursday, in a great room belonging to the Drapers' Company, into which none but the members of that corporation are admitted. To this monopoly is to be ascribed the removal of the market from Shrewsbury, as persons not of the fraternity, but who pursued the same trade, intercepted the cloth in its way to the town; so that the drapers themselves, whenever trade is brisk, are obliged to go up into the country, (as the phrase is) and buy goods wherever they can find them; at Dolgellu, Machynlleth, the villages, farm-

* See Aikins's Journal of a Tour, &c.

farm-houses, cottages, or fulling mills. In consequence of this it is now become a custom with the principal drapers to keep servants the greater part of the year at Dolgellu or its neighbourhood, who get acquainted with the persons who make cloth, assist the poorer ones frequently with small sums of money to purchase wool, and, in fact, superintend the making and dressing of the goods.

2. Small cloth is the produce of Denbighshire. It is entirely manufactured within the parish of the Glynn, a large tract of country including Llangollen and Corwen. There is no established factory for this article. Small cloth is about one-eighth of a yard narrower than strong cloth; its length is the same. This cloth is chiefly sold in a dyed state. Some quantity is indeed sent off in its native or white state, but all that is dyed is, or ought to be, of this kind; the reason of which is that the coarser sort of the high country cloth abounds with long white hairs, called kemps incapable of taking the dye. This fabric is made of the coarsest part of the very long wool that grows round Oswestry. Of this wool the finer part is converted into a sort of flannel called Oswestry flannel, in substance between a common Welsh flannel and a web; its breadth is three quarters of a yard; its value from ten to fifteen pence at Oswestry, the place for the sale of these woollens; but the cloths are conveyed by the venders into any garret, stable, parlour, or kitchen that they can procure, and the purchasers hunt them out as well as they are able: the market is however confined to one or two streets. The purposes to which webs are applied abroad are various; the clothing of the slaves in the West Indies and South America creates a large demand; stockings are said to be made of them in Germany, and other parts of the continent; and the late Empress of Russia at one time clothed part of her troops with this article.

But *flannels* constitute the grand and most important of the Welsh manufactures. The texture and uses of this comfortable commodity it is unnecessary to point out. It is chiefly the produce of Montgomeryshire, but by no means confined to that

county, being made in various places within a circle of about twenty miles round Welsh Pool. There is only one manufactory of note in this line in Wales; which is at Dolobran, near Pool, and is said to be a parish concern, and has been established about seven years. There are a few other infant factories at Newtown, Machynlleth, and other places, but as yet of little consequence.*

At present the greater part of the thousands of pieces of flannel which are annually sold at Pool, is the produce of manual labour; but the use of machines increases, and will speedily become general. Formerly the Welsh bestowed no pains in sorting the wool, a fleece was broken into two parts, never into more than three: they have now however learnt the economy of a little more trouble, and can make distinctions of sorts to the number of seven or eight: the consequence is a great variation in the texture of flannels, and some have been sold as low as sixpence, while others have been disposed of at four shillings per yard. Coarse goods are at present very scarce and extravagantly dear, none being to be had under eleven or twelve pence per yard. The market at Pool is once a fortnight, on a Monday. Each manufacturer used to bring for sale his own goods, but of late a set of middle men has sprung up, called Welsh drapers, a sort of jobbers or forestallers, who go about the country to the different cottages, and buy all the flannel that they can lay their hands upon.

No calculation has been made of the number of yards manufactured, nor indeed is it conjecturable.† Very little flannel is immediately

* Since this account was written the flannel manufacture has been considerably extended, and numerous improvements adopted. Two large factories have been erected near Llanydloes in Montgomeryshire, and the various machines, used in the woollen trade by the English, are applied to the purposes of manual labour.

† Mr. Pennant, in his *Snowdonia*, p. 397, published in 1781, mentions that there are brought annually to Salop 700,000 yards of webs; and to Welshpool annually, between 7 and 800,000, yards of flannel; but he does not state the particulars whence he deduces this general estimate.

immediately exported by the Shrewsbury drapers, who, for the most part, sell their goods to the London merchants; by these, flannels, as well as other woollens, are sent to the continent, to America, and the West Indies: the chief demand however is inland. It is impossible to tell the number of pieces exported, except by enquiries at the ports; for though each draper may know the proportion exported of his own goods, yet no one is acquainted with what his neighbour exports.

Stockings, wigs, socks, gloves, and other small knit articles, are sold chiefly at Bala,* being made in the town and neighbourhood; they are generally purchased by Welsh hosiers, who travel through the adjoining English counties, and supply the shops and warehouses; from the latter they are dispersed through the island. Stockings are of all colours, greys of various shades, white, blue, red, &c. which sell from six to nine shillings per dozen.

Very considerable manufactures of cottons and cotton twist have been established in the counties of Flint and Denbigh, the principal of which are at Northop, Greenfield, Sceiviog, Newmarket, and Denbigh. In these factories a number of machines called mules are used with great success. These machines are so denominated, from being of a mixed kind, forming a compound of the water-engine and the spinning-jenny. They are peculiarly adapted for the spinning of fine yarns, and far exceeding every other machine yet discovered for that purpose. In some of these manufactories cotton yarn is spun of so fine a texture, that 130 hanks, each hank being 830 yards long, make but a pound weight. The principle on which cotton wool is drawn out to such a surprising fineness, is by the use of iron rollers, which have an horizontal movement, regulated as to speed, by brass wheels of different sizes and numbers according to the degrees of fineness required in the thread. The cotton twist or yarn here manufactured is sent chiefly into
England

* The market here is every Saturday, when from two to five hundred pounds worth of stockings are sold each day, according to the demand.

Pennant's Snowdonia, p. 67.

England and Scotland, to be wove into fustians, callicos, muslins, &c.

Numerous manufactures of copper, iron, lead, tin-plates, &c. have been set up both in North and South Wales, a particular and detailed account of which will be given with the descriptions of the respective places where they subsist.

The *commerce* of Wales may justly be considered at present in its infancy, being chiefly confined to the coasting trade. Except Caernarvon and Swansea, which have lately extended their views to Spain, Portugal, and the West Indies, few of the Welsh ports possess vessels of very considerable tonnage; though no part of the island contains a greater proportion of harbours and roads, some of which are safe and good, and more might soon be made such, by the building of piers and other improvements, which are obvious at the respective places. For there is no reason to doubt, but were the public attention paid to this manifest scheme for enriching the principality, that it would be found very practicable to supply the defects of nature in many instances by art; so as to render, several of the Welsh havens, now barred by choaking sands, capable of receiving ships of burthen. There are scattered over the country vestiges demonstrative that Wales was once in a much more flourishing condition, and no impossibility exists why it should not be equally, or superiorly so, again. It possesses extensive capabilities, and when the benefits arising from industry shall be thoroughly understood by the higher, and properly encouraged in the lower classes, of the Welsh, the spirit of improvement will be rapidly diffused; the present coast-trade be despised; and the fruits of trade and commerce exalt places, now scarcely known, in a scale of rank, equal with Chester, Bristol, and Liverpool.

PECULIAR CUSTOMS, SUPERSTITIONS &c. Among a variety of Welsh customs, those in courtship, marriage, and at funerals, cannot fail to excite attention. Hymeneal negociations are frequently carried on by the Welsh peasantry in bed. The

young Strephon frequently goes several Welsh miles to visit the object of his choice, either to her place of servitude, or the residence of her friends. The young couple retire to a bed room, and between the blankets converse on those subjects, which the nature of the occasion may suggest. The youth generally goes on a Saturday night, and returns to his work on the Monday morning.

This singular custom, which has been compared, not very happily, to the American *Bundling*, is one of those that served to mark the original British character; and among many others, remains to distinguish this people to the present day. To those who conjecture, that every familiarity must be accompanied by improper ideas, this mode of courtship will appear highly objectionable; and those, who consider every custom that differs from their own as founded in barbarism, will be inclined to censure it, as productive of evil. But as this usage is entirely confined to the labouring classes of the community, it is not so pregnant with danger as on a first supposition it might appear. Both parties are so poor, that they are necessarily constrained to render their issue legitimate, in order to secure their reputation, and with it a mode of obtaining a livelihood.

The *weddings* are thus conducted:—When two young people have agreed to enter into a state of wedlock, a friend undertakes to perform the office of Gwahadder, or *bidder* to the wedding; who goes round the neighbourhood to all persons in nearly the same station of life. If the wedding is of the better sort of people, he carries circular letters; if among the poorer, he does it *viva voce*. The import and form of the message is nearly as follows:—

Speech of the Bidder in Llanbadarn Vawr, 1762.

“The intention of the bidder is this; with kindness and amity, with decency and liberality for Einion Owain and Llio Elys, he invites you to come with your good-will on the plate; bring current money; a shilling, or two, or three, or four, or
five;

five; with cheese and butter we invite the husband and wife, and children, and men-servants, and maid-servants, from the greatest to the least. Come there early, you shall have victuals freely, and drink cheap, stools to sit on, and fish if we can catch them; but if not, hold us excusable; and they will attend on you, when you call upon them in return. They set out from such a place to such a place."

In consequence of this, or a similar invitation, the friends and neighbours for a great extent, make a point of attending the wedding, laden with presents; consisting of money, butter, cheese, &c. &c. these are carefully set down by the clerk of the wedding, opposite to each respective name, which are to be paid in the same public manner, and on the same occasions, whenever demanded. This custom is called *Pwrs a Gwregys*; and making the presents, termed, paying *Pwyddion*. As an ancient usage, it is considered on refusal, as recoverable by law; but a sense of the reciprocal duty generally prevents having recourse to such a mode of recovery.

It has sometimes happened, that a species of matrimonial swindling has been practised: persons in distress have made feigned nuptials, to recall the presents they may have made, and obtain those of others*.

This custom undoubtedly originated in the hospitality and affectionate disposition for which this people were for centuries famed. Nor can it be denied, that this national dowry must have acted as a strong inducement to matrimony; and been

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highly

* Tacitus seems to have noticed something of this kind in his treatise on the manners and customs of the Germans, a valuable morceau of historical information. Describing the marriages of those people, he observes, "*Intersunt parentes et propinqui, ac munera probant, munera non ad delicias muliebres querita, nec quibus nova nupta comatur, sed boves, et frenatum, equum, et scutum cum framea gladioque, &c.*" The parents and relations of the new married couple attended to testify their approbation of the gift that were presented, gifts consisting not of luxurious delicacies, or bridal ornaments, but of oxen, horses trained to war, shields, swords, and ashen poles, pointed with polished iron heads, &c.

highly conducive to the strength and population of the country. It provided a permanent and never failing fund for the use of those entering into life; which encouraged them to set out with hope, and called upon their resolution to persevere in the same economy and industry that produced it.

It might be expected, that those who had such singular customs at the entrance on life, would have some peculiarities on the departure out of it. Previous to a funeral it is usual for the friends of the deceased to meet in the apartment where the corpse is placed; some of them, generally the female part, bewail the loss of their departed friend. When it is brought to the door one of the relations gives bread, cheese, and beer, over the coffin to some poor persons of the same sex, and nearly of the same age with the deceased, for collecting herbs and flowers to put into the coffin with the body; sometimes a loaf, with a piece of money stuck in it, is added. This done, all attending kneel down, and the minister, if present, repeats the Lord's Prayer. At every cross-way they stop, and the same ceremony is repeated, till they arrive at the church. Frequently the intervals are filled up by singing of psalms and hymns, which amidst the stillness of rural life, and the echo from the hills, produces a melancholy effect; and adds to the sombre solemnity of the occasion.

The funerals in Wales are attended by greater crowds of people than even their weddings. A custom prevails in this country of each individual in the congregation making some offering in money on these occasions, which, if done in the church, is paid as a mark of respect to the clergyman. This custom*, which is at present confined to North Wales; has doubtless been retained from the Romish religion, where the money was intended as a recompence to the priests for their trouble in singing mass for the soul of the deceased. In some cases, where the clergyman is not respected by his parishioners, the offerings are made on the coffin at the door of the house

* See Bingley's and Evans's Tour through North Wales.

where the deceased resided, and are then distributed among the poor relatives. When, however, the offerings are made in the church, the other mode very rarely occurs. The whole of the morning or evening prayers for the day, and the usual part of the burial service in the church, are first read: the next of kin to the deceased then comes forward to the altar table, and if it is a poor person, puts down sixpence or a shilling, but if he is sufficiently opulent, half a crown or a crown, and sometimes even so much as a guinea. This example is followed by the other relatives, and afterwards by the rest of the congregation whose situation in life will afford it, who advance in turn to offer. When the offering of silver is ended, a short pause ensues, after which, those who cannot spare any larger sum, come forward, and put down each a penny, (a halfpenny not being admitted.) Collections on these occasions have been known to amount to ten or fifteen pounds, but where the relatives are indigent, they do not often exceed three or four shillings. In cases where families are left in distress, this money is usually given by the clergyman to them. When the collection is entirely finished, the body is taken to the grave, the remainder of the burial service is read, and the awful ceremony is there closed.—The offerings at Llanbublic, the parish church of Caernarvon, sometimes amount to fifty or sixty pounds a year.

A remarkable custom prevails over some parts of Wales viz. planting the graves of departed friends with various evergreens, and all the choicest gifts of Flora's hand. Box thrift, and other plants fit for edging, are planted round in the shape of the grave for a border, and every flower, that adorns the smart parterre, is placed within; so that the taste of the living may here be known by the manner of embellishing these mansions of the dead. The snow-drop, violet, and primrose harbingers of spring, denote the infant dust; the rocket, rose, and woodbine, shew maturer years; while tansey, rue, and star-wort, mark declining life. Each has its little evergreen, fond emblem of that perennial state where change is known no

more*. Nor are they once planted, left to be over-run by the luxuriance of less delicate neighbours, but constantly weeded and cherished by the hands of the nearest friends of the deceased, who appropriate every Saturday afternoon for this amiable weakness, or rather pious remembrance of departed worth†.

It has been observed that mountainous scenery is peculiarly friendly to those ærial and imaginary existences which constitute the objects of *superstition*‡. The constant variation in their appearance, added to the gloom attendant upon lofty crags, hollow cwms, deep ravines, lakes, dingles, caves, and torrents; must have a strong tendency to affect the imagination; fear is the offspring of ignorance, and unbounded credulity the concomitant of fear; similar notions will produce similar manners, and equal degrees of intelligence are generally marked by a coincidence of belief. Hence the spirit of conjuration, so prevalent in Lapland, the second sight of the Highlands, and the vagaries of the Awenyddion in Wales, (a word significant of poetical,

* Shakespeare sweetly alludes to this custom in his Cymbeline:

With fairest flowers, lass,
I'll sweeten thy sad grave; thou shalt not lack
° The flower that's like thy face, pale primrose, nor
The azure hare-bell, like thy veins. No, nor
The leaf of eglantine, which, not to slander,
Outsweeten'd not thy breath.

† Still when the hours of solemn rites return,
The village train in sad procession mourn;
Pluck every weed that might the spot disgrace,
And plant the fairest field-flow'rs in their place,
Around no noxious plant or flowret grows,
But the first daffodil, and earliest rose;
The snowdrop spreads its whitest blossoms here,
And golden cowslips grace the vernal year:
Here the pale primrose takes a fairer hue,
And every violet boasts a brighter blue.

BLEEDING ROCK.

‡ “Hence superstition sprung in elder time,
Wild as the soil, and gloomy as the clime.”

RICHARDS.

poetical raptures), were derived from the same origin; these persons, when consulted, became inflamed with a high degree of enthusiasm, were, to all appearance, carried out of themselves, and seemed possessed of an invisible spirit; yet they did not immediately give a solution of the difficulty; but, by an inconsistent circumlocution with which they abounded, any person, who observed the answer would, at length, by some turn or digression in the speech, receive, or fancy that he did, the required explanation*. From this state of ecstasy they were at last roused as from a deep sleep, and were compelled, by the violence of their friends, to return to their natural state; and it is said, that they did not recollect any thing, that passed, or which they had uttered; if it happened that they were again consulted upon the same, or any other subject, they would deliver themselves in very different terms. This property of divining they fancied was bestowed upon them in their sleep, at which time, according to Giraldus, it appeared to some as though new milk was poured into their mouth; to others, as though a scroll of writing; and, on their waking, they publicly professed to be endued with these extraordinary gifts; but this kind of devotion becomes daily less in repute, and chiefly confined to the mountainous parts. The belief of witchcraft is still strong, and many are the fatal and dire effects produced by the supposed hybrid beings. At every house you will perceive a horseshoe, cross, or some charm of defence against these venomous spirits; and it is usual to place on the Vigil of St. John sprigs of the Hypericum, thence called St. John's wort, at the entrance, in the same manner the Druids were used to do Veronica. Its supposed virtue is couched in the title: *Cos gan Gythral*, i. e. *Dæmon's Aversion*. "Many old women, therefore, because they happen to be

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old,

* The folly of divination and fortune telling to the thinking mind must be obvious, and is more supported by the belief of the credulous, than the arts of knavery; for, to the whole tribe of diviners may be applied the remark of Euripides. "*Μαντις δ' αριστος οστις εικαζει καλως.*"

old, and perhaps deformed, have to bear the odium of preventing the cows from yielding milk, and butter from forming in the churn. They are also believed to possess the power of inflicting disorders both in men and cattle, and that they seldom neglect to do it when they have been offended. This will well account for the notion of witches having been strenuously maintained some centuries ago, even by the most enlightened persons of the age. Old women, on whom the generally odious epithet of witch has been once fixed by the popular voice, have found it their interest, and in Wales to this day find it their interest, to deny nothing that is alledged to them. They become thus held in superstitious fear by the people, and in many instances obtain an easy livelihood from their supposed extent of power. Wherever they ask alms, it would be (say the common people) the death of a cow or horse, or perhaps even one of the family, to refuse them; and the neighbouring peasantry, much as they hold them in detestation, believe it their own interest to keep them always in good humour. The old women thus live, in some measure, in affluence, with little other trouble than feeding and training up three or four cats, and attending minutely to the concerns of their neighbours*.”

Down to the reign of James I. various statutes were passed, making witchcraft, conjuration, or sorcery, felony without benefit of clergy. During this period, while laws were enacted to perpetuate error, it is probable that many innocent persons, distressed with poverty and age, and disliked by the neighbourhood, fell the unfortunate victims; and this terror of ancient females was not removed till 9. Geo. II. c. 5†. Since that, a pretence to divination is considered as a misdemeanor, punishable by pillory and imprisonment. The belief of those elvine beings, called fairs or fairies, appears to have been ancient and general

* Bingley's North Wales vol. II. p. 275.

† The learned Montesquieu, in his *Spirit of Laws*, ranks this crime with that of heresy, and judiciously observes, that we ought to be very circumspect in the prosecution of both, because the most unexceptionable conduct, the purest morals, and the constant practice of every duty of social life, are not a sufficient security against the suspicion of such crimes.

general, not only from the Britons having reduced the notions respecting them to a kind of system; but because various allusions are made to them by the British bards, under the common appellation, "The Spirits of the Mountains." It is supposed they are fond of the southern sides of the hills and the deep recesses of the woods; of cleanliness, neatness of apparel, regular living, strict integrity, and devotedness to God; and that those who wish for their protection, or would avoid their ire, must pay attention to these things. To such characters they are esteemed friendly, and, to the opposite, exceedingly spiteful; troubling them with dreams, alarming them with noises, pinching them black and blue, carrying away their unbaptized children, and confining them for a given period; and it is a custom with the ignorant to watch their children till after baptism, lest they should be stolen or changed. They are said also to maim cattle by throwing ugly weapons at them; the stones, called arrow heads, found in these parts, are fancied to be elf shots; and a species of fungus, growing on the lower parts of the trunks of trees, when reduced to a soft consistency by rains, is called Fairy's Butter. The description by those that pretend to have seen them is, that they are in the human shape, exceedingly diminutive, always clad in green, and whenever employed are usually heard, being very noisy; their occupation over, they live a merry life, dancing hand in hand invisibly by moon light, footing to lyric measures over the verdant turf, leaving their marks in darkened circles, alias fairy rings, upon the green grass. Their vagaries are pleasantly alluded to by Brown in his pastorals:

" A pleasant mead,
Where fairies often did their measures tread,
Which in the meadow made such circles green,
As if with garlands it had crowned been.
Within one of these rounds was to be seen,
A hillock rise, where oft the fairy queen
As twilight sate, and did command those elves,
To pinch those maids that had not swept the shelves;
And further if, by maiden's oversight,

Within

Within doors water were not brought at night,
 Or if they spread no table, set no bread,
 They should have nips from toe unto the head.
 And for the maid that had performed each thing,
 She in the water-pail bade leave a ring."

Considerably allied to the fairies, is another species of supposed aerial beings, called by the Welsh, *knockers*. These, the Welsh miners say, are heard under ground, in or near mines, and by their noises generally point out to the workmen a rich vein of ore. The following are extracts from a letter on this extraordinary subject, written by Mr. Lewis Morris, a man eminent for his learning and good sense.* "People who know very little of arts or sciences, or the powers of nature, (which, in other words, are the powers of the author of nature,) will laugh at us, Cardiganshire miners, who maintain the existence of knockers in mines, a kind of good-natured impalpable people, not to be seen but heard, and who seem to us to work in the mines; that is to say, they are the types, or fore-runners of working in mines, as dreams are of some accidents which happen to us. The barometer falls before rain or storms. If we did not know the contruction of it, we should call it a kind of omen that foretels rain; but we know it is natural, and produced by natural means, comprehended by us. Now how are we sure, or any body sure, but that one's dreams are produced by the same natural means? There is some faint resemblance of this in the sense of hearing; the bird is killed before we hear the report of the gun. However this is, I must speak well of the knockers, for they have actually stood my very good friends, whether they are aerial beings called spirits, or whether they are a people made of matter, not to be felt by our gross bodies, as air, and fire, and the like.

"Before the discovery of Esgair y Mywyn mine, these, little people, as we call them here, worked hard there day and night

* This letter, which was written to his brother, Mr. William Morris, comptroller of the customs, at Holyhead, is dated the 14th of October, 1754.

night ; and there are abundance of honest, sober people, who have heard them, and some persons who have no notion of them, or of miners either ; but after the discovery of the great vein of ore they were heard no more.

“ When I began to work at Llwyn Llwyd, they worked so fresh there for a considerable time, that they frightened some young workmen out of the work. This was when we were driving levels, and before we had got any ore ; but when we came to the ore, they then gave over, and I heard no more talk of them.

“ Our old miners are no more concerned at hearing them blasting, boring holes, landing deads, &c. than if they were some of their own people ; and a single miner will stay in the work, in the dead of the night, without any man near him, and never think of any fear, or of any harm they will do him. The miners have a notion that the *knockers* are of their own trade and profession, and are a harmless people who mean well. Three or four miners together shall hear them sometimes, but if the miners stop, to take notice of them, the knockers will also stop ; but, let the miners go on at their own work, suppose it is boring, the knockers will at the same time go on as brisk as can be in landing, blasting, or beating down the loose ; and they are always heard a little distance from them before they come to the ore.

“ These are odd assertions, but they are certainly facts, though we cannot, and do not pretend to account for them. We have now very good ore at Llwyn Llwyd, where the knockers were heard to work, but have now yielded up the place, and are no more heard. Let who will laugh, we have the greatest reason to rejoice, and thank the knockers, or rather God, who sends us these notices.”

It is an opinion very prevalent within the diocese of St. David's * in Pembrokeshire, that a short time previous to the death

* This is not strictly confined to the diocese of St. David's, like other erroneous opinions, it has learned to travel, and its progress has not yet been effectually obstructed by the dissemination of truth.

death of a person, a light is sometimes seen to proceed from the house, and even from the bed, and to pursue its way to the church where the body is to be interred, precisely in the same track that the funeral will afterwards follow. This light is called *canwyll corph*, or, "*the corpse candle*." They likewise add, that the same is bright or pale, according to the age of the person, and if the candle is seen to turn out of the path that leads to the church, the corpse will do so likewise.*

The paternal care of St. David over his flock would not permit him so far to afflict the people by his death, as to deprive them entirely of his superior prescience. For the comfort of posterity he put up his prayers, that the inhabitants of his diocese might have some peculiar mark of divine beneficence conferred on them. His supplications were heard, and a promise made, that no one should die without having this previous intimation of departure.

Another intimation of a funeral, is the *Teulu*, which is a phantasmagoric representation of the funeral; and the peasantry affirm, that when they meet with this, unless they move out of the way, they must inevitably be knocked down by the pressure of the crowd. It is added, that they know the persons whose spirits appear, and hear them distinctly singing hymns, on this awful occasion.

A strange custom prevails in some obscure parts of North Wales, which, however, the clergy have now almost abolished. This is termed the "offering of an enemy." When a person supposes himself highly injured by any one, he repairs to some church dedicated to a celebrated saint, or one who is believed to

* Such phenomena may be accounted for, from the frequent inflammation of hydrogenous gas mixing with atmospheric air, and enkindled by electric matter. Indeed, from the peaty and morassy soils of this district, such is its phosphorescent quality, that often sparks of fire will be seen under the feet of travellers; which, to persons unacquainted with the cause, must appear formidable, if not ominous. From similar causes proceed those luminous effects called, from the supposed shapes they assume, lanterns, flying dragons, dancing giants, &c. &c.

to have great power over the affairs of men : here, kneeling on his bare knees before the altar, and offering a piece of money to the saint, he utters the most virulent and dreadful imprecations, calling down curses and misfortunes on the offender and his family even for generations to come. Sometimes the offended persons repair for the same purpose, to some sacred well, dedicated to a saint. Mr. Pennant was threatened by a man, who fancied he had been injured by him, “with the vengeance of St. Elian, and a journey to his well, to curse him with effect.”* This is now only discoverable in the most illiterate or vitiated parts of the community, who, from the tyrannical nature of pseudo religious influence, have been kept under the worst of all slaveries, that of mental subjection. There exist numerous other superstitious opinions and practices, the offspring of monastic ignorance or imposition, and which are still cherished even by truly worthy members of society and devout christians. But as many of these are known, and even credited to the east of the Severn, to describe them would not be novel ; and to particularly notice them, might appear invidious.

LANGUAGE, POETRY, AND MUSIC. The Welsh language has an undeniable claim to very high antiquity, as a dialect of the Hebrew, spoken by the descendants of Japhet, and evidently, like the old Gallic, is of Celtic origin. Both in its formation, as well as grammatical construction, it has a near resemblance to the original tongue ; and the affinity is further demonstrated by the learned Rowlands, in the comparative table, containing three hundred words, which might have been extended, since the publication of Owen’s invaluable dictionary, to as many thousand. It is, perhaps, without exception, the most primitive, and uncorrupt living language in the western world. It abounds with original words, more especially technical terms, which other languages usually borrow from the Greek, or express by circumlocutions : and from its aptitude to form verba sesquipedalia,

* Tour in Wales, vol. ii. p. 337.

dalia, is peculiarly fitted for poetry and oratory. The accent, like its parent the Hebrew, being generally confined to the penultima or last syllable but one, produces often a monotony, yet at the same time a dignity of sound; and the multiplicity of consonants which might be supposed to give it an unusual degree of harshness, tends to furnish it with numerous elegancies and varieties in sonorous beauty. The copiousness is unrivalled, principally arising from the multifarious combination of the verbs, each of which has about twenty modifications, by means of qualifying prefixes; and these possess the double capacity of being either conjugated by inflexions, like the Latin, or like the English, by the aid of auxiliary verbs. From the numerous gutturals it has been termed rugged, and by those unacquainted with its extensive capability might be supposed ill adapted to express soft and melodious sounds: yet that it is adequate to represent a great degree of softness, the following englynys or stanzas will demonstrate,

Mae mil o leisian meluson
 Mai mel o hyd ym mola ffon.
 Within the concave of the womb is found
 The magic scale of soul-enchancing sound.
 O'i wiw wy i weu ê â a'i weuau
 O'i wyau y weua;
 E'weua yw ei we aia',
 A'i, weuau yw ieuau iâ.
 I perish by my art;
 Dig my own grave,
 I spin my thread of life,
 My death I weave.*

Of its great energy and capability of displaying one of the chief beauties in language, the sound corresponding with the sense, a distich on thunder may serve as a specimen:

Tan a dwr yn ymwriaw
 Yw r taranau dreigiau draw.
 The roaring thunder dreadful in its ire
 Is water warring with aerial fire.

These

* This epigram on the silk worm, consists of vowels only, and is perhaps not to be equalled in any language.

These examples, to which thousands of a similar description might be added, corroborate the testimony of the author of Letters from Snowden, that the Welsh language, at the same time it may boast the softness and harmony of the Italian, possesses all the majesty and expression of the Greek.

The orthoepy of the Welsh is very different from the English. In the language of Cambria are thirty-eight letters; sixteen of which are radicals, expressive of the primary sounds; and the rest may be considered as serviles, because used as inflections, or mutations of the former; for each of which there is a simple appropriate character. But since the invention of printing, and the introduction of the Roman letters, it has been necessary, for want of a sufficient variety for the purpose, to adopt two, and even three of these to express one sound, anciently designated by a single character; by which means the simplicity and beauty of the proper alphabet is lost. This was what is now generally considered as the Saxon alphabet, but certainly belonged to the Britons, having been used in their writings, for centuries, previous to the invasion of that people. Many of the ancient British manuscripts are written in this character, part of the liber Landavensis, and several preserved in private libraries. Monumental inscriptions, as old as the sixth and seventh centuries, are in this character, and that this was the ancient British alphabet is highly probable from the observation of Cæsar, when speaking of the Druids, "*Græcis literis utuntur,*" They use the Greek alphabet. No unapt comparison, if the ancient Greek and British inscriptive letters are properly confronted. When the Saxons first came into Britain, Dr. Johnstone observes, they appear "to have been a people without learning, and very probably without an alphabet."—And Rowlands acutely remarks, that if they had brought the use of letters with them from Saxony, or wherever they came from, there would have been some remains either of inscriptions, or manuscripts in that country, unless they had all come over to a man, and brought with them all their books and their tombstones also. But in no part of Germany is there any thing like a

Saxon character to be found. That they invented these letters after their arrival in Britain is entirely an improbable conjecture ; because at that time the Roman character was in general use, and ready for their adoption. And it may be further observed, that when the Britons were driven out of Mercia several of the learned were permitted to remain, and by them the Saxons were probably first instructed in the use of letters : for it is a notable fact, that Asserus and Scotus, the tutors of Alfred, were both Britons, and that prudent monarch borrowed his legal institute from the laws of the Cambrian jurisprudence. No letter in the Welsh language has any variation of sound, except the accented vowels, which are lengthened, or otherwise changed according to the power of the accent, and all are pronounced, there being no mutes. The following letters differ in their power from the English, viz. A, pronounced as a, in man. C is always hard, as k in ken ; ç or ch is a guttural, as the Greek χ ; Dd sounds like th in the ; G is pronounced hard, as g in go ; I like double ee in been : Ll as an asperated l, and bears a sound very difficult to pronounce by persons not born in the country ; U is similar to i, in sin ; W is a vowel adequate to oo, in soon ; and Y is similar to u, in burn. What evinces the simplicity and antiquity of the Welsh is, that all compounds in the language, are regularly formed from *monosyllables*, and those are again reducible to classes of similar sounds, having a coincidence of import, as *pen*, a head ; *cen*, the top or first ; *nen* the top or what is vertical overhead ; *llen* a veil or covering ; *leen* a teacher or man of learning, *Rheen* a creator, or one that gives a beginning. None of this class even are primitives, but compounded of *py*, *cy*, *ny*, *lly*, *lle*, *rhe*, with *en* a principle or first cause, whence enaid the soul, literally the principle of life from en and aid, life.* The Welsh, Cornish, Armorican, and the Erse or Gaelic, are dialects of the same language, agreeing in their grammar, structure, and nomenclature, though differing in orthography and

* Owen's Welsh Dictionary, and notes to his translation of the Heroic Elegies of Llywarch Hen.

and pronunciation; in consequence of the long separation of the inhabitants of the respective countries from each other; and they evidently are derived from one common source, the ancient Celtic. A modern Welsh writer has remarked, "that some advocates for the abolition of the Welsh tongue are vain enough to prognosticate a near approaching day, when it will be numbered with the dead languages. They see some few families on the borders, and about a dozen innkeepers upon the post-roads, who speak English only; but there are thousands, and tens of thousands in the wilds of Wales, who have learned the language of their parents, and of their country, as naturally and as innocently as they sucked their mother's breasts, or breathed the common air; these have neither opportunity, nor inclination to learn any other tongue. This is the impregnable fortress of the Welsh language, where a rivetted cordial antipathy against the English tongue, caused by the cruelties of Edward the First, and of the Lancastrian family, dwells as commander in chief. Storm this garrison, and overturn Snowdon from its base."* But this is far from an accurate and impartial statement, for the Welsh is getting fast into disuse through the principality, more especially the southern part. The gentry of the country are principally educated in England, and consequently few of them speak it, and many of them wish for its extermination. The example of the higher classes is become contagious, and ere long the language and manners of Cambria will by approximation coalesce with those of the inhabitants to the east of the Severn.

The ancient Britons were exceedingly partial to *poetry*. Wales, as their place of refuge, was early the seat of the poetic muse, and modern effusions of original genius evince, that the soul-inspiring goddess of song has not deserted her favourite mountains. The laws of composition, however, were so strict, that they must have cramped the genius of their bards, had it not been for the extent of the language, its copiousness, and aptitude.

* Cambrian Register for the year 1796, p. 280.

aptitude for alliteration, a figure considered by the Welsh as a peculiar beauty. This consonancy, called *Cynghanedd*, is very imperfectly seen in English compositions, compared with the regular system by which it is governed in the Welsh language. To give a proper analysis of it would require more room, than is admissible from the nature of the present work. The following couplet may serve as a fair specimen.

Gwyr a wna gwr yn wral
Gwr a wna gwyr yn ei al.

To this they added another, that of adopting the sound to the sense. And perhaps no poets were ever more distinguished for the masterly use of this figure, than the Welsh, nor any language better calculated for its exhibition. A third was, a peculiar ingenuity in the selection and arrangement of words, so as to produce a rhythmical concatenation of sounds in every verse. The Welsh had twenty-four poetical measures* to which all possible varieties and combinations of metres are reducible in any language. But the most favourite seem to have been the triple and tetrastich. *Llywarch Hen* has an *englyn* rhyming every three lines, and each stanza commencing with the same phrase. The *Hanes of Taliesin* consists of eight tetrastichs, and the *Eryr Mynydd*, written by the former bard, consists of twelve octonary stanzas. So general and inveterate was this syllabic and jingling rage, that he was considered the best poet, who could succeed to the farthest monotonous extent. The *Cyngor of Taliesin* has sixteen lines ending in *on*; and a *Cywydd of Dafydd ap Gwylim* contains fifty-two, terminating in *af*.

As a specimen of their poetry take the following translation of an elegy which was written by *Llywarch Hên*, a British Bard

* For a particular account of these, and other information, respecting Welsh poetry, see Owen's translation of *Llywarch Hên Heroic Elegies*, and Walter's Dissertation on the Welsh language.

Bard of the sixth century, on the death of Cynddylan, prince of Powys.

Come forth and see, ye Cambrian dames,
 Fair Pengwern's* royal roofs in flames !
 The foe the fatal dart hath flung
 (The foe that speaks a barb'rous tongue,)
 And pierc'd Cynddylan's princely head,
 And stretch'd your champion with the dead.
 His heart, which late, with martial fire,
 Bade his lov'd country's foes expire
 (Such fire as wastes the forest hill)
 Now like the Winter's ice is chill.

O'er the pale corse with boding cries
 Sad Argoed's † cruel eagle flies ;
 He flies exulting o'er the plain,
 And scents the blood of heroes slain.
 Dire bird ! this night my frightened ear
 Thy loud ill-omen'd voice shall hear :
 I know thy cry, that screams for food,
 And thirsts to drink Cynddylan's blood :

No more the mansion of delight,
 Cynddylan's hall is dark to night ;
 Nor more the midnight hour prolongs
 With fires, and lamps, and festive songs.
 Its trembling bards afflicted shun
 The hall, bereav'd of Cyndrwyn's son ‡
 Its joyous visitants are fled ;
 Its hospitable fires are dead :
 No longer, rang'd on either hand
 Its dormitory, couches stand :
 But all above, around, below,
 Dread sights, dire sounds, and shrieks of woe :

Awhile I'll weep Cynddylan slain,
 And pour the weak, desponding strain ;

Awhile

* Now Shrewsbury, then the chief residence of the princes of Powys.

† The ancient name of Powys.

‡ Cynddylan was the son of Cyndrwyn.

Awile I'll soothe my troubled breast :
Then, in eternal silence rest.*

Canu Telyn. The harp is recorded to be the most ancient, and we may justly add, the most expressive and elegant of all musical instruments. Among the eastern nations it was esteemed the symbol of concord, and probably it was the instrument first attuned to harmony or counterpoint.

The Telyn Gwrda was possessed by every Cambrian youth of gentility, and a taste for this instrument, in preference to any other, still exists among the inhabitants of Wales. Giraldus Cambrensis, who wrote his itinerary through Wales in the year 1188, speaking of the liberality and hospitality of the Welsh, says, "Those who come at early hours are entertained with the conversation of young women, and with tunes on the harp, during the evening: for here every family hath its damsels, and harps assigned for this purpose. Every family too is here well skilled in all the knowledge of the harp.† The *Crwth* ‡ was another instrument something like the violin. It has this name from its resemblance to a box. Its sound is very melodious, and it was frequently used as a tenor accompaniment to the harp: but it is now become extremely rare. The word *crwth* has been corrupted in English into *crowd*, and used to express the common fiddle. To this Butler alludes,

I' th' head of all this warlike rabble,
Crowdero march'd, expert and able,
Instead of trumpet and of drum,
That makes the warrior's stomach come.

Hud. Part. I. Canto II. 105.

It has six strings, four running parallel in the manner of a violin, which are sounded by a bow; and two others, not placed over

* This Elegy was translated into English verse by the Rev. John Walters, master of Ruthin school, and late Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

† Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 292.

‡ The use of this instrument is principally at present limited to the very interior parts of the country.

over the finger board, but passing diagonally to the left of it, and which were struck with the thumb of the left hand, to serve as a base accompaniment to the notes sounded with the bow. The bridge of this instrument differs from that of a violin, in being less convex at the top, a circumstance from which it may be inferred, that two or three strings are to be sounded at the same time, so as to afford a succession of concords. The bridge is placed obliquely across the instrument, and one of its feet passing through the left hole of the sounding board, rests on the back, thus serving as a sounding post. There was also the *crwth trithant*, or three-stringed *crwth*, which differed from the other, not in shape but in having all its strings parallel.

The *Pibcorn*, i. e.* hornpipe; is the next instrument used particularly by the Welsh. This is so called from having both its extremities tipped with horn. It has seven holes besides the aperture, and has a reed concealed within. Its tone is a medium between the flute and the clarionet, and is a pastoral instrument. From this, that species of dance termed hornpipe, originated. Other instruments were used by the Welsh, but none are so properly to be termed their national instruments as the three already described. The *pennill*, or extempore stanza, was often sung to the harp: and in company, this instrument was handed round, when every man played an air, in which he was accompanied by the voice of the female seated next him. These instruments produced the merry dance, still a favourite amusement among the Welsh peasantry. These dances were extremely characteristic, and uncommonly lively. There was the war dance, and the peace dance, which were again subdivided into those representing the incidents of war, and all the usual employments of peace.

Their *music* is as varied and expressive as the language; much has been justly said in commendation of its peculiar beauties, and those who affirm that there is a sameness in all the Welsh airs, must have heard but very few specimens, or

* This is said to be scarcely used in any part of Wales beside Anglesea.

paid but little attention to the subject. A great simplicity pervades the Welsh melodies, yet they are distinguished by features as varied as the country; invented by an enthusiastic and impassioned people, they partake of all the wildness of unrestrained originality; sprightly and vivacious, plaintive and energetic, they are characterized both by Allegro and Penseroso, and equally adapted for Lydian as for Doric measures; most of the tunes are very ancient, and preserved in the traditional recollection of the country;* they show their composers to have possessed genuine skill in music, and that they knew how to warm the imagination, and interest the heart. Whether the muse delights in gay or mournful numbers, she may have her choice; and the expressive vibrations of the noble instrument the harp increases the pathos and solemnity. The vivacity of Joe Pulleine's Horn and Sir Watkin's Delight forms a fine contrast with the plaintive air of Dafydd ar Craig gwyn, and the solemn dirge of Morfa Rhyddlan.

Genealogy was in no nation, except the Hebrew, considered of so much importance, or carried to an equal extent. Indeed family distinction is pursued so far, that perhaps it induces the Cambrian to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. Pride of ancestry was a delicate and essential point amongst the antient Britons, and consequently they were more desirous of noble, than of rich connexions. So deeply was this principle rooted, that even the lowest classes of the people carefully preserved the direct and collateral descents† of their families, and were in general able from memory, not only to recite the names of their proximate progenitors, but to trace their various relations back through numerous generations. This, classed amongst the hereditary prejudices of the Welsh, has been supposed to arise from the mountainous nature of the

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country,

* Mr. Jones has performed a work deserving the praise of all amateurs in music; by collecting and publishing a number of these in his "Musical and Poetical Remains of the Welsh Bards."

† As long as a Welsh pedigree is a proverbial adage for tenacity and tediousness in narration.

country, and the circumstance of the inhabitants living long in the same district. But a more rational cause may be found in the peculiar form of their ancient government and legal tenures. The laws of gavel-kind so dispersed property, and ramified heritable relations, that it was essential to correctly ascertain the consanguinity and affinity through the male and female lines to the utmost possible latitude. And though the same necessity does not at present exist for the usage, yet it must at least be considered as a venial defect in the national character; merely as an excess of laudable affection; since it may be observed, that he who is attached to high rank must feel some respect for the virtues of those by whom the distinctions were acquired. The five royal tribes of Cambria,* will furnish a kind of specimen, and serve as an elucidation of future allusions that will be made to distinguished characters.

I.

Gryffith ap Cynan, king of North Wales, is the first registered in our books. He was the grand-child of prince Jago ap Edwal, whose son Cynan was forced to fly into Ireland for safety, where he married Ranulft, daughter of Auloedd, king of Dublin, Man, and the Isles, and the relict of Mathganyn, king of Ulster, and had issue by her this Gryffith. † He beareth gules, three lion-cels passant in pale barry argent, armed azure.

DESCENDANTS EXTANT IN THE MALE LINE.

Wynnes.....of Pengwern, Merionethshire.

DESCENDANTS EXTINCT, OR IN THE FEMALE LINE.

Wynnes.....of Gwydir, Caernarvonshire.

of Wynnstay, Denbighshire.

of Bodscallen; and Berthddu

of Conwy..... } Caernarvonshire.

of Maes Mochnant, Denbighshire.

of Ysymcegid

of Clynnemey, Caernarvonshire.

K 4

Lloyd

* This is taken from a work entitled, *British Antiquities revived*, by Robert Vaughan, Esq. of Hengwrt.

† Most of his descendants give the coat of his son Owain Gwynedd, viz. vert, three eagles displayed in fess or.

Lloyd.....of Cwm-bychan, } Merionethshire
 of Blaen Glynn, }

DESCENDANTS EXTINCT, OR IN THE FEMALE LINE.

Kynastons.....of Hordley.
 of Otley.

Kynastons.....of Morton.
 of Llyn-y-Mapsia.
 of Pont y Byrsley.

Williams.....{ of Hinchinbroke, Huntingdon, of whom
 Cromwell, the Protector.

Nanneys.....of Nanney, Merionethshire.

Maurices.....of Lloran, Shropshire.

Kyffins.....of Bodfach, Montgomeryshire.
 of Maenan, Caernarvonshire.
 of Glasgoed, Shropshire

Tanats.....of Abertanat, } Montgomeryshire.
 Meredydd.....of Glantanat, }

Powels.....of Whittington, Shropshire.

Jones.....of Treweithian.

Maesmor of Maesmor, Denbighshire.

Hughes.....of Gwerclas, Merionethshire.

IV

Ethelystan Glodrydd, (the fourth royal tribe,) prince of the country* between Wye and Severn. He was the son of Cyhelyn ap Ifor, by Rhiengar, the daughter and heir of Gronw ap Tudor Trevor, from whom he had derived to him the title of the earldom of Hereford. Athelstan, king of England, was his godfather. Ethelystan, (or as he is sometimes called Elystan,) bore two coats quartered, azure, three boars heads caboched sable, langued gules, tusked or. His mother's coat, parted per-bend sinister ermine and ermines; over all a lion rampant, or.

DESCENDANTS

* The country between these two rivers was anciently called Ferlys; and it had its own princes, independent of the princes of South Wales.

Elystan, bore two coats quartered, azure, three boars' heads caboched sable, langued gules, tusked or. His mother's coat, parted per-bend sinister ermine and ermines; over all, a lion rampant, or.

DESCENDANTS EXTANT IN THE MALE LINE.

Clyn.....	of Cery, of Bodfach, of Newtown, of Penarth. of Park. of Pilale, Radnorshire. of Llanbister.	} Montgomeryshire
Olivers.....	of Nevoddwen. of Llangyniw.	
Lloyds.....	of Cery, Montgomeryshire. of Mochdre.	
Wynns	of Gellidywyll. of Llanfendigedd.	
Owen.....	of Rhiw Saeson, Montgomeryshire.	
Philips.....	of Llan Ddewi.	
Vaughans.....	of Bugeildy. of Pant-y-Garreg.	
Meredydd.....	of Llanasan.	
Owen.....	of Morbend.	
Morris.....	of Cery, Montgomeryshire.	
James.....	of Croesgynan, Montgomeryshire.	
Matthews.....	of Blodwell, Shropshire. of Mochdre.	
Powell*.....	of Westwyn and Ednop, Shropshire.	

V.

Jestyn ap Gwrgant, (the fifth royal tribe) was prince, or lord of Glamorgan; he descended from Tewdric king of Gwent, in king Arthur's time. He lost his country to Robert Fitzhamon, and his twelve knights; whom, by the procurement of Einion ap Cadifor ap Collwyn, he had hired to come with an army to assist him against Rhys ap Tewdwr, prince of South Wales, and

Blethyn

* Of this family was Richard Powell of Ednop, (or, as it is sometimes written, Edenhope,) the poet, author of the *Pentarchia*, a short history, in coarse Latin verse, of the royal tribes of Cambria, and their descendants. The abovementioned poem was composed about the year 1623. Prefixed to it is a dedication to the then Prince of Wales, afterwards Charles the First.

Blethyn ap Maenyrch, lord of Brecknock. As a judgment upon him, for his disloyalty to the said Rhys, his sovereign, God was pleased suddenly to punish treachery with treachery. Rhys and Blethyn, after a bloody battle, (not far from Brecknock,) were slain in the field. Gules, three cheveronels in pale argent.

DESCENDANTS EXTANT IN THE MALE LINE.

Williams.....of Tame. Earl of Abingdon.

Newtons.....of Heathley.

Jones.....of Craflwyn, Caernarvonshire.

of Dôl in Edeirnion,

of Dôl-y-Môch,

} Merionethshire.

Myttley.....of Myttley,

Prince Griffith ap Cynan, Rhys ap Tewdwr, and Blethyn ap Cynfyn, made diligent search for the arms, ensigns, and pedigrees of their ancestors, the nobility and kings of the Britons. What they discovered by their pains, in any papers and records, was afterwards, by the bards, digested and put into books, and they ordained five royal tribes, (there being only three before) from whom their posterity to this day can derive themselves; and also fifteen special tribes, of whom the gentry of North Wales are, for the most part, descended. And in our books we have mention of the tribe of March; &c. besides other tribes called Gwehelyth, and Gwehelaethau.

The following are the fifteen tribes of North Wales, from whence are descended some of the principal families, and landed proprietors of the country.

Marchudd, Braint Hir, Hwfa ap Cynddelw, Llowarch ap Brân, Cilmin Droed Tu, Ednowain ap Bradwen, Ednowain Bendew, Edwin ap Grono, Hedd Molwynog, Evnydd ap Morien, Macloc Crwm, Gwerydd ap Rhys Gôch, Marchweithian, Nevydd Hardd, Collwyn ap Tangno.

The names of Englishmen and others, who came to be possessed

* Lord Williams, of Tame, was made Lord President of the Marches of Wales, in the first year of Queen Elizabeth; and died, the same year, at Ludlow Castle, where the Courts of the Marches were then held.

sessed of estates in Wales, and have settled there for several ages. The Salisburies, the Palestons, the Herberts, the Bulkeleys, the Conways, the Hollands, the Thelwalls, OsbornWydel, Peke, Hookes, Langford, Griffith ap Jenkin, Idio Wylt, Gunter, Gray, Pigot, Here, Brereton, Yswittan Wyddel, Rodri, Garat, Groch, Twnkyn of Shocklidge, Newton, Doon, Dutton, Butler, Strange, Brytaen, Lodlow, Herwr, Corbet, Bridges, Whyte, Gerard, Bowld, Ireland, Troughton of Bodlew, Twisleton, Ashpool, Lacie, Earl of Lincoln, Brereton of Burras, Knowsley, Rigston, Hanmer of Hanmer, Dolben, Panton of Bagillt, Vernon of Cheshire, Myvods, Bonville, Caster of Kimmel.*

* See Owen's British Remains, or a Collection of Antiquities relating to the Britons.

END OF THE GENERAL ACCOUNT OF CAMBRIA.

ANGLESEA OR MONA*.

THIS island forming, according to the present political division of the kingdom, one of the six counties of North Wales, is situated to the north-west of Caernarvonshire, from which it is separated by a narrow arm of the sea, called the straits of Menai.—This district among the ancient Britons was known under different appellations, as Ynys Dowyll, or the Shady Island; Ynys y Cedeirn, from its heroes, or powerful druids; and Ynis Fôn, singly written and pronounced, Môn†, which the Romans latinized into Mona; and by this name it is distinguished in their writings. Anglesea, or the Eng'ish Isle, was the name given it by the Saxons. This insulated tract of country, it is probable, originally joined the main land, for traces of an isthmus are visible near Porthaeth-hwy, where a line of rocks jets out nearly across the channel, in the broken interstices of which the sea, for about an hour or more, at the commencement of the flood tide violently fluctuates and foams, forming a very dangerous passage by the clashing of two currents, denominated Pwll Ceris.

This narrow ridge the sea daily attacking with its unruly waves, which gained accumulated force by the restriction of a narrow passage, soon undermined and forced its way, so as to become one uninterrupted channel. “It may well be affirmed, that this fret or river of Menai, to this mentioned middle place, is the original work of nature; or a great crack or fissure in the internal strata of the earth, at what time soever that happened

* The ancient name Mr. Rowlands supposes was the origin of the *Thule* of the Romans, and Anglesea the ultimate *Thule*; notwithstanding later geographers mistook another for it, when more remote islands were discovered by their navigators.

† So called from its site, or position in respect to other parts of Britain, and for mere confirmation of this conjecture, one may trace the sound Mon, in many other corners of this, and other countries, where we may presume the ancient Celtæ to have arrived; as if the first inhabitants of these western regions called those farthest points, or ends of land, which put a stop to their

pened. And though this channel might become one entire dividing arm of the sea, between these two lands in a few years after the flood, yet it may in no wise be granted to be then near so broad and so deep, as it is now; for we must allow the force and agitation of storms, the flux and reflux of tides, to have beaten and washed upon, worn and sunk away a great deal of the soft and earthy banks on each side of it; and the bottom also to have been consumed and hollowed by the sea's sharp acrimonious quality; so that it must be now much deeper and wider than at first we can imagine it to have been."*— Though the argument is not here supported by the most conclusive reasoning, this was probably the fact; for the Romans appear to have partially forded these straits, when they pursued the fugitive druids, and in a subsequent invasion of this island by the English, the cavalry made their advances at ebb tide or low water. This island, from its vicinity to the Isle of Man, and the facility with which a passage to that, or the coasts of Ireland might be obtained, was chosen by the druids, or British priests, during the persecution of the invading Romans, as an asylum which they fondly hoped would afford them a safe and undisturbed repose. But Roman ambition knew no bounds, and the druidical influence had occasioned the invaders to purchase their piecemeal conquests, at so dear a rate, that retaliating vengeance unsheathed its sanguinary sword, and with an inexorable vow of extermination, threw away the scabbard. Caius Suetonius Paulinus having overcome the Ordovices, who inhabited the adjacent country, resolved to pass over into Mona, and finish the war in this part of Britain, by extirpating the druids, who had selected it for their retreat. Having effected a passage over the Menai straits by flat-bottomed boats, and fording

progression, *Món*, or *Bón*. Thus we find Cornwall called by the Romans *Danmonium*, and the furthest point of it is to this day called, *Pen-von-laz*, or *wlad*. The Isle of Man, *Moneda*. And in Ireland, the farthest part of it to the west, is called *Momonía*, or *Mown*." Rowlands's *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*.

* Rowlands's *Mona Antiqua Restaurata*, p. 5.

fording at low water during neap tides, the vigour, valour and superior discipline of the Romans easily overcame a race of unarmed people. But before he had completely effected the conquest of the island, his attention was arrested by a general insurrection of the countries in his rear, under the conduct of that celebrated heroine, Bonduca, or Boadicea.* The diversion this occasioned to the Roman army, afforded the remnant of the druids a respite of about fifteen years; when the island was again attacked, and at length totally reduced by Julius Agricola.† The Roman historian is minutely particular on this occasion, for the attempt to eradicate their religion, under the appellation of the most horrid superstition,‡ had occasioned the Romans an incalculable sum, both of blood and treasure. The Britons now driven to the last extremity, had to defend their sacred groves, temples, altars, and surviving priesthood. On such an extreme occasion it is not surprising, if the conflict were dreadful. Tacitus § describes the British army, which lined the shores to resist the landing of the Romans, as surrounded, or rather accompanied by another army of druids, composed of both sexes, in such confused numbers, that he designates them as *muliebre et fanaticum agmen*, or a multitude of viragos and madmen. From his relation, this last effort, *pro aris et focus*, appears to have participated more of a grand religious spectacle, than of a pitched battle. The druids exhibiting some of their usages at their sacred ceremonies with uplifted hands, pouring out curses and volleys of unavailing execrations on the heads of the invincible Romans; while the women with dishevelled hair, and clad in terrific habits, rushed against the soldiery like furies, scattering among them firebrands, and death. But after an unequal, though desperate, struggle, the Druids and remainder of the inhabitants fell a lamentable sacrifice to
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* Taciti Annales, Lib. xiv.

† Tacitus in Vita Agricola.

‡ “ Oh nefanda hæ sacrificia omnem druidum superstitionem tollere tentarunt Romani, sed frustra.”

§ Annales, Lib. xiv.

the most extreme outrages, and fiercest cruelty, ever practised by the Romans; being thrown by command of the barbarous conqueror into their own sacrificing fires, igni suo involvunt*. To the whole of this interesting, yet distressing relation, given by one of the most accurate Roman historians, the numerous monuments of their sacred rites, the ancient names of places, and with many other indubitable circumstances, and indelible vestiges, afford ample and concurrent testimonies. To which may be added the common British epithet, applied to this island, “ Mon mam Gymrie.” Mon the mother, or nurse of Wales; for though this is by some supposed allusive to its former fertility, still it seems more applicable to the district, as having been the chief residence of the Druids whom the primitive unconquered Britons considered the parents of science, and the guardians of society. Immediately after this conquest, Mona; as part of the province styled *Britannia secunda*, became subject to the Romans, who have left in it some remains, though not of public or private buildings, yet coins, urns, and various utensils, sufficient to manifest, this island once formed a residence for that powerful and prudent people.

When the Romans entirely abandoned the country, the natives resumed the form of government under which they had lived, anterior to the arrival of the invaders. By this many princes were acknowledged at the same time in different parts of Britain, and the whole island was again divided into several petty sovereignties. About this period, A. D. 443, Caswallan the prince of Cumbria made choice of Mona for his residence; and being the eldest branch of the *Cynethian* line of British
Druids

* After this event, some few of the Druids, which escaped the general massacre, are said to have retired to the Isle of Man, the Orknies, Hebrides, and Ireland, and driven out of these retreats in a subsequent period by Christian zeal, they sought an asylum in Norway, Iceland, and other regions of the north: at length the Druidical order was abolished, and the system universally abandoned, after it had for centuries established a boundless tyranny upon the ruins or prostration of human reason.

princes, be consequently possessed pre-eminence in dignity; the other Cambrian sovereigns, paying homage and obedience to him, as to their superior lord. Maelgwyn his son succeeded, from whom in a direct line sprung Cadwalader, the last king of the Britons. From this period the island of Mona formed part of the principality, or kingdom of Gwynedd, the kings of which made Aberfraw their chief place of residence. Egbert, who united the Saxon heptarchy into one government under the name of England, to retaliate the injuries committed upon his subjects by the Welsh, who had formed an offensive alliance with the Danes, invaded West Wales; and desolated the country as far as Snowden. He then advanced to Mona, and after having fought a most sanguinary battle with the Welsh forces at Llanvaes near Beaumaris*, he took possession of the island; which from this period “ was called Anglesea or the Englishman’s isle†” but it was shortly recovered under the auspices of the Welsh prince Mervyn.

During the reign of William Rufus over England, the Welsh having committed numerous depredations on the borders, a powerful English army entered Wales, and invading this island poured out upon the inhabitants a full measure of retaliative justice. In the twelfth century it greatly suffered again by the unnatural contests between Cadwalader and his nephew Howel, who had usurped the throne of North Wales. Shortly after it was ravaged by means of a similar contest between prince David and his brother Roderic‡. During the reign of Henry the first A. D. 1245 the Irish landed in Anglesea and

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* Welsh Chronicle.

† This assertion of Mr. Warrington in his history of Wales, seems merely a probable conjecture; for in the Saxon Chronicle, where the name occurs it evidently refers to a transaction, subsequent to the Norman conquest. Bede speaking of this, and Man, calls them the *Menavian* isles, and represents the southermost, as exceeding in size, fertility, and population, and observes, both were tributary to Edwin, king of Northumberland.

‡ Welsh Chronicle.

for a time carried desolation and dismay before them, but not having been properly supported by the English, they were powerfully assailed by the infuriated inhabitants, and driven back with great slaughter to their ships.

As the renown of the North Wallian princes began, so it terminated in Anglesea. Here under Llewelyn ap Gruffydd the last of this line, the army of king Edward the first passed the straits of Menai by a bridge of boats at the same place, where Julius Agricola had entered the island, centuries before*; and though the English were defeated, yet they afterwards obtained complete possession of this island; which so abridged and weakened the power of Llewelyn, that it led the way to the final reduction of the whole country.

Anglesea is surrounded by the Irish sea, except on the side where it is divided from the continent by the Menai straits, already noticed; on which are established, within the distance of fifteen miles, five ferries, viz. Abermenai the most southern, three miles to the north of which is that of Tal y Foel near Caernarvon; four miles further, Moel y don; three miles beyond which is Porthaethwy, commonly called Bangor ferry, over the narrowest part of the straits, the breadth there not exceeding half a mile; and the fifth and longest, at high water is between the village of Aber and the town of Beaumaris. The form of the island is very irregular, being indented with numerous small bays, creeks, and other inlets. The average length from north-west to south-east, is about twenty miles; the breadth from north-east to south-west, about sixteen; and the circumference, seventy-six; comprising about two hundred thousand acres of land. The county is divided into six hundreds, viz, Llyfon, Maltraeth, Menai, Talybolion, Twrcelyn, and Tyndaethwy, including seventy-four parishes, and four market towns, Newburgh, Beaumaris, Lanerchymedd, and Holyhead. By the returns made to government under the population

* This, according to Humphrey Lloyd, was at a place now called *Moel y don*, where is still one of the ferries into Anglesea.

population act, it appears, that the island contains 6680 houses and 33,806 inhabitants, viz. 18,031 females, and 15,775 males of whom 2614 were stated to be employed in trade and manufactures, and 9766 in the labours of agriculture. It is included in the diocese of Bangor, and province of Canterbury, and sends two members to the British senate; one for the county, and another for the town of Beaumaris. The climate is mild and more temperate, than the adjoining counties of North Wales, arising from the sea breezes; but owing to the same circumstance is incommoded with frequent mists in the autumn, which occasions a damp atmosphere at that season of the year, when the inhabitants are generally subject to intermittent fevers. The face of the country is different from other parts of Wales, having no lofty mountains, nor deep vallies, nor is it greatly diversified with hills or dales, and the interior parts being devoid of wood, the greater part of the lands uninclosed, and the inclosures seldom surrounded by quickset hedges, the country assumes a very dreary aspect: which induces at first sight an idea of great sterility: but this is by no means the actual case, for the soil is in general very good, and under proper management highly productive. Though it possesses no rivers of consequence, yet it is well watered, having twelve rivulets, flowing from small hills in various directions to the sea, on each side of the island, and affording to all parts of it a due proportion of moisture. Among the principal are the *Cevenney*, *Alau*, and *Fraw*, and *Dulas*.

Though destitute of navigable rivers it is so happily indented, as to possess numerous *harbours**, which formerly

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were,

* From Harrison's description of Briton, Book I. chapter 10. it appears, that Anglesea was formerly a place of great trade; and the names of ports and havens yet remain, the use of which has been long lost. Indeed the situation in respect to other countries render it convenient for carrying on a coasting trade with the north-west parts of England, the south of Scotland, the east-side of Ireland, all parts of North and South Wales; and it is at least equal to many ports of the united kingdom, for participating in foreign commerce.

were, and with attention might become again, highly beneficial to the inhabitants. Beaumaris is a good harbour and capable of considerable trade, and with its two creeks is esteemed a member of the port of Chester. To the north of Beaumaris is Red-Wharf bay, which at present is too much exposed to winds from the north-west: this inconvenience, however, might be removed by building a pier at Porth llangdy, and as plenty of stones are found in the vicinity, it might at a small expence be converted into a safe and convenient harbour. Two leagues further to the North is Dulas bay, at the mouth of Dulas river, narrow at the entrance, and incommoded with fragments of rock; but if those were removed it would serve as a small useful port: and there being lead mines adjacent the village of Dulas, might thus become of considerable importance. Proceeding northward, round St. Elian's point, Am-lwch, that has lately been improved for the use of vessels, which transport the copper ore, dug out of Parys mountain, is still capable of much further amelioration, and extension. It is accounted a creek to Beaumaris. Cemlyn or crooked-pool-bay on the north side of the island might at a small charge be made a safe port, and a serviceable dock also there constructed; nature having done so much, that little assistance would be required from art, for its accomplishment. Holy-head, the station for the packet-boats, which form the communication between England and Ireland, is naturally a good port for sloops and other small vessels. But this, which is the other creek, to Beaumaris, might for about five thousand pounds be rendered a very good harbour for ships of large burthen, and thus made of general use to trade. Aberfraw was anciently a very excellent port, and by the erection of a pier of thirty or forty yards in length would become so again, and the sum for defraying such expence would be extremely trivial. Maldraeth or Maltraeth situated on the western side of the island, between Aberfraw, and the Menai, at the mouth of the river Cevenny or Kevenny might be very greatly improved. Were a good pier constructed at Dinas Lwyd com-
modious

modious anchorage would be afforded any where within it, even for large vessels; and a small pier under Bodorgan for vessels employed in the coal trade, would in a short time render this a place of consequence; and the whole expence of such improvement rather fall under, than exceed, a thousand pounds*.

Anglesea was formerly well *wooded*, but from the exterminating system, levelled against Druidical superstition, or perhaps with a view of clearing the land for agricultural purposes, when it became essential to make the island the granary of † North Wales; most of the woods were cut down or burnt: so that, except on the parts adjacent to the Menai straits, little variety of sylvan beauty is visible; for the trees shrink beneath the force of the south-western blasts, and most of those growing in that quarter of the country appear in a stunted or blighted state. In the interior the country is entirely naked, for even fences are difficult to raise and very easily destroyed. But though the general scenery is little interesting to the traveller, yet when he has proceeded a few miles in a north westerly direction, by reversing his position, he will obtain a splendid view of the immense alpine chain of Caernarvonshire mountains; extending across that country from Penmaen, to Traethmawr, in one continued line, the contour of which is varied, at irregular intervals, by the numerous diversified peaks towering

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above

* See observations on the sea coasts and harbours of Wales by Lewis Morris Esqr. who was employed under government to make the survey described: and which is a work replete with extensive information, and appears to have been drawn up with diligence and accuracy.

† After repeated disasters, suffered by the North Wallian princes in the dire conflictive struggle with the potent English; and the extent of Wales, by the different treaties greatly diminished; while defending the country in the fastnesses of Snowdonia, which was the asylum of their cattle, the Welsh looked to Anglesea for the necessary supplies of corn. And in the time of Edward the first, the English having by a bold manœuvre obtained possession of this island, the British prince Llewelyn, deprived of this usual resource, was with his army nearly reduced to the dreadful prospect of immediate famine. Warrington's Hist. of Wales Vol. II. p. 206.

above the rest, till they gradually advance to the summit of Snowden; and then uniformly declining, till they terminate in the northern horn of Cardigan bay. As the traveller recedes from the position he first took, the connecting links of this noble chain are lost to the sight, and only the insulated summits appear like so many pyramids in the distant horizon.

“ Now southward, Muse, on spreading pinions bend,
 A lesser Snowden's verdant sides ascend,
 That rears abruptly from the lucid deep,
 Its stoney apex o'er the craggy steep.
 The landscape's various charms the muse explores,
 The Druid haunts, and Mona's hallow'd shores,
 High Arfon soaring o'er the humbler isle,
 The winding Menai—Daniel's mitred pile;
 Thy towers Carnarvon—triple summits Llyn,
 That distant close the vast and varied scene.
 Below, amphibious man, as whim prevails,
 Turns up his little back, and spreads his sails,
 Or, led by florid health, descends to lave,
 And skims the surface of the bracing wave;
 Or frets the liquid azure as he floats
 Where sister nations crown the busy boats*.”

Wonderful stories have been related, respecting extraordinary productions and miraculous events, connected with the history of this island, at which, while reason smiles, she heaves a sigh over the deplorable folly that produced them. These, the offspring of gross ignorance, or perhaps too often the invention of a base designing priestcraft to further its covetous and nefarious practices upon unsuspecting credulity, demonstrate to what an extent the faculties of man may be debased, and how low the human mind may be degraded on the scale of rationality. The following, among many others, narrated by the companion of archbishop Baldwin through Wales in the twelfth century, will afford sufficient specimens; and however ridiculous they may at the first glance, seem yet they are highly

* Lloyd's Beaumaris Bay, a Poem.

highly important, as illustrative of the general character of that age, and the moral features of the great mass of society. Though the wonderful things related of these objects of superstitious veneration are referable to a period subsequent to the abolition of the Druidical worship, yet is it more than probable they had their origin in that religious system, and were a portion of those traditionary evils, which heathenism entailed upon christianity, when with contaminating errors it debased the purity of her doctrines.

“ As many things within this island are worthy of remark, I shall not think it superfluous to make mention of some of them. There is a stone here resembling a human thigh, which possesses this innate virtue, that whatever distance it may be carried, it returns, of its own accord, the following night, as has often been experienced by the inhabitants. Hugh Earl of Chester, in the reign of King Henry the First, having by force occupied this island, and the adjacent country, heard of the miraculous power of this stone, and for the purpose of trial, ordered it to be fastened, with strong iron chains, to one of a larger size, and to be thrown into the sea; on the following morning, however, according to custom, it was found in its original position, on which account the earl issued a public edict, that no one from that time, should presume to move the stone from its place. A countryman also, to try the powers of the stone, fastened it to his thigh, which immediately became putrid, and the stone returned to its original situation.

There is in the same island, a stoney hill, not very large or high, from one side of which if you cry aloud, you will not be heard on the other; and it is called (by antiphrasis) the rock of hearers. In the northern part of Great Britain (Northumberland) so named by the English, from its situation across the river Humber, there is a hill of a similar nature, where if a loud horn or trumpet is sounded on one side, it cannot be heard on the opposite one. There is also in this island, the church of Saint Tefredaucus, into which Hugh earl of Shrewsbury (who, together with the earl of Chester, had forcibly en-

tered Anglesea), on a certain night put some dogs, which on the following morning were found mad, and he himself died within a month; for some pirates, from the arcades, having entered the port of the island in their long vessels, the earl apprised of their approach, boldly met them, rushing into the sea upon a spirited horse: the commander of the expedition Magnus, standing on the prow of the foremost ship, aimed an arrow at him, and although the earl was completely equipped in a coat of mail, and guarded in every part of his body, except his eyes, the unlucky weapon struck his right eye, and, entering his brain, he fell a lifeless corpse into the sea; the victor seeing him in this state, proudly and exultingly exclaimed, in the Danish tongue, “Leit loup,” let him leap: and from this time the power of the English ceased in Anglesea*.

THE NATURAL PRODUCTIONS of Anglesea are multifarious, and many of them highly valuable. Among the subterraneous productions are found various kinds of ochre for the purposes of painting, diversities of potters clay, white, and yellow, fullers earth; numerous varieties of breccia for mill-stones; quantities of grey, and white marble, simple and variegated, equally adapted for sculpture and ornamental architecture as some, imported from distant countries at a great expence. In the north-west part of the island near Camlyn bay, where is safe anchorage for small vessels, in the parish of Llanfair-in-hornwy, was long found the *asbestine* marble, the stone being intersected with veins of a wonderful incombustible substance. But the quarries, since Mr. Pennant’s time, are quite disused. Mr. Aikin says “having heard that at Camlyn bay, there were some marble quarries, and that it furnished asbestos; we resolved to spend this day in visiting it: the road in general lay about half a mile from the coast, the substratum was waved green magnesian slate. When we arrived at Camlyn bay, we looked in vain for marble, or asbestos†.” Some small fragments

* Hoare’s Giralduſ Vol. II. p. 103.

† Journal of a Tour &c. p. 113.

ments the writer of this, discovered in the year 1800. A green amianthus or brittle asbestos, Mr. Pennant observes, "is found in great plenty in a green marble near Rhoscolin;" but from the inflexible nature of the fibres it is not applicable to the same uses as the elastic kind. Promising veins of excellent coals have been discovered and worked in several parts of the island. Lead, and copper, have been found in Parys mountain; the latter so abundant as greatly to enrich the proprietors, support much productive industry, and diffuse emulation, with consequent comparative wealth, among numbers of the people.

The sea, is no less bountiful, than the land; for not to mention the immense quantities of ore, wreck or sea weed, that might be manufactured into excellent kelp, it furnishes numerous kinds of fish, as herring, cod, whiting, turbot, soal, plaice, crabs, lobsters, oysters of different kinds, of which the large ones in the beds near Penmon, are highly esteemed; and after being pickled and packed in casks are exported to a great distance. So that if the inhabitants of this island should want, they must incur the censure, conferred on their progenitors by Leland. "There is a good commodity for fishing about all Tir Môn; but there lacketh cunning and diligence."

The island of Anglesea is celebrated for some of its rare productions, and more especially for the variety of its shell fish, particularly crabs. The places from whence the latter are principally to be obtained are the rocky coasts about Llanddwyn, Rhoscolin, Holyhead, and Penmon; and the best times for discovering them are at low water, during the spring tides, which sometimes rise and fall near twenty feet. The mode is to turn up the stones, near low water mark, under which they will be found to lurk, hidden among the sea weed. The shells are principally taken in the dredges of the oyster-catchers betwixt Beaumaris and the island of Priestholme, and in Red Wharf bay." The following list of the principal of these productions, furnished by an intelligent writer is probably accurate

curate and shews what a feast this part of the country affords to the naturalist, as well as mineralogist.

Cancer pisum,	Pea crab.
—— longicornis,	Long-horned crab.
—— velutinus,	Velvet crab.
—— platicheles,	Great-clawed crab.
—— phalangium,	Slender-legged crab.
—— pagurus,	Black-clawed crab.
—— mœnas,	Common blue crab.
—— gammarus,	—— Lobster.
—— strigosus,	Plated lobster.
Aplysia depilans,	Depilatory aplysia.
Doris electrina,	Amber doris.
Aphrodita minuta,	Little aphrodita.
Actinia sulcata,	Sulcated actinia.
Asterias oculata,	Dotted star-fish.
—— hispida,	Hispid star-fish.
—— lacertosa,	Lizard star-fish.
—— sphærulata,	Bearded star-fish.
Eschinus esculentus,	Sea hedge-hog.
Solen vagina,	Scymeter razor-shell.
—— pellucidus,	Pellucid razor-shell.
—— legumen,	Sub-oval razor-shell.
Cardium echinatum,	Echinated cockle.
—— lævigatum,	Smooth cockle.
—— edule,	Common cockle.
Pecten lævis,	Smooth scallop.
—— glaber,	Furrowed scallop.
Mytilus incurvatus,	Crooked muscle.
—— pellucidus,	Pellucid muscle.
—— umbilicatus,	Umbilicated muscle.
Voluta tornatilis,	Oval Volute.
Murex costatus,	Ribbed whelk.
Trochus cinereus,	Cinereous top.
—— majus,	Tuberculated top.
Turbo lævis,	Smooth wreath.
—— terebra,	Augur wreath.
—— fasciatus,	Fasciated wreath.

Patella intorta,
Sabella alveolata,

Inclining limpet.
Honey-comb sabella*.”

From the island having been long a grand thoroughfare to Ireland, possessing plenty of materials and other concomitant circumstances, the ROADS are generally very good; and what is not usually the case in Wales; *direction posts* assist the passing stranger at almost every division or crossing of the communications. Since smuggling, which used formerly to be carried on here to an amazing extent, by the vigilance of government has been nearly suppressed, husbandry in general has been laudably attended to, and the *agricultural* state of the country experienced many additional improvements, highly beneficial to the landholders, and the kingdom at large. The soil is various†, but principally a fine loamy sand, which under proper treatment is highly productive. The general fertilizing substance adopted as a manure is lime or marine sand, and though in many places the earthy stratum is but shallow; yet the farmer obtains very considerable crops, both of grain and grass. Corn and cattle therefore constitute the chief products, and in favourable seasons large quantities of barley and oats are exported, either to Liverpool, or the main land: and many thousand head of cattle, exclusively of sheep and hogs, pass over the different ferries of the Menai, for the English markets. The island possesses great capabilities, for a considerable portion of land remains for want of draining in a swampy state, and many of the flat lands lying adjacent to the sea are covered with sand, which at no great expence might be converted into rich grazing meadow land, and much at present remaining in an unproductive state might profitably be appropriated to the culture

* Bingley's North Wales, vol. I. p. 541.

† The soil may be classed into three sorts, viz. sandy, stiffish loam, and a black kind, approximating to peat-earth: the latter generally terminates in peat bogs, forming useful turbaries. Interred in these are frequently found numerous trees, the remains probably of the Druidical forests, and some of them remain so sound, as to retain a capability of being split into lathes for the use of builders.

culture of hemp and flax. About the middle of the century before the last there were exported yearly from this island, about three thousand head of cattle, and a proportionable quantity of butter, cheese, corn, and other provisions. According to the latest account that we have, the exportation of black cattle is risen to about fifteen thousand: besides which they commonly spare five thousand hogs, and a great number of sheep, to the continent (reserving still in the isle a stock of thirty thousand head of cattle) four thousand quarters of corn, with considerable quantities of honey, wax, tallow, hides, and some woollen and linen cloth*.

The population of a country is, in general, as good a comparative criterion of its flourishing, or declining state, as can perhaps be obtained. The number of the inhabitants in this island about the middle of the century before the last, was computed at 12,000; and the houses 1840; but they so considerably increased, that in the year 1776, the number of houses amounted to 3956; which allowing five persons to each family the number of inhabitants would be 19,780; wanting only 4220 of a *redoubled* population, within the intervening space. Since that period it will be seen by the numbers from the census, published under the sanction of parliament, the increase has been still more rapid.

With respect to *manufactures*, there are none of any considerable importance. The few linen and woollen cloths made in the island, furnish instances rather of private industry than sources productive of public profit. But though at present Anglesea has little to boast in this particular; it did not always rank so low. The progressive rise, decline, and revival of trade, if they form no very remarkable epochs in its history, yet afford a few useful hints on a subject peculiarly interesting to the judicious inquirer into the welfare of his country, and the means of its improvement.

Elucidatory of this subject are the following extracts taken from an able statistical work compared with other statèments.

“ In

* See history of Anglesea.

In A. D. 1544, the thirty-sixth year of Henry the eighth, there was a loan to that prince, in which Anglesea paid one hundred and ninety five pounds; when the county of Rutland, which is about half the size paid but one hundred and thirty six pounds. A. D. 1584, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when there were ten thousand trained men raised in the kingdom, Anglesea furnished fifty, and Rutland forty; and ten years before, upon an exact muster, the able men in this island were found to be three hundred and seventy. To this let me add, that by a strict inquisition taken in the forty fourth year of the same reign, A. D. 1602. it appeared, that the revenue drawn from Anglesea amounted but to four hundred and twenty-five pounds a year; whereas it was found, by a like inquisition, in the fiftieth year of Edward III. A. D. 1376, to produce annually eight hundred and thirty-two pounds. In the reign of King Charles the First, when writs were issued, for the sums to be respectively levied for ship-money, through the counties of England and Wales, Anglesea paid four hundred and sixty two pounds, when Rutland paid eight hundred. This certainly is, a great improvement, in the space of a century. But notwithstanding that, we can still render it more than barely probable, that all things taken together, this country was in a far better state under its ancient princes: for when, in the beginning of the reign of Edward the First, A. D. 1277, Prince Llewellyn was forced to conclude a treaty with him, he engaged to pay fifty thousand pounds to obtain the King's favour, and an annual tribute of one thousand marks for the island of Anglesea; which is more than equal in value to the land-tax of that country at present, when it pays four shillings in the pound. Besides all this (because the King's army had reduced the best part of the isle before he submitted) he undertook to pay down five thousand marks on his being admitted into quiet possession. If, therefore, we consider, that this was after undergoing the charge and inconveniencies of a long scene of bloodshed and confusion; if we reflect, that the prince was to have his revenue besides, and advert also to the value of money,

money, compared with the necessities and conveniencies of life in those days; we must conclude, that the subjects, from whom all this was to be taken, were numerous, and in tolerable circumstances." Much therefore it is evident remains to be done both in the amelioration of the soil, and by the encouragement of manufactures, to restore this island to its pristine prosperity.

BEAUMARIS,

THOUGH a small place, is the capital of the county, and finely situated on the south-eastern part of the island, on a low shore of an admirable roadsted called Beaumaris bay. Included within the parish of Llandegvan, or Llandegfan, little doubt can be entertained, but the present town originated from the circumstance, of a castle having been erected here about the close of the thirteenth century, by king Edward the first; for nothing is heard of it anterior to that period, except, that on the site, of the present fortress, in a low marshy spot, stood a small oratory, denominated St. Meugin's chapel; and at the same epoch, the name of the place was changed from *Bomover* to *Beaumaris*, that is the fine or beautiful marsh, from the French word *beau*, fair, and *marais*, a marsh. Others derive it from the former epithet, and joined to *mer* the sea, allusive to the fine road for shipping near it: and both assign as an argument for such derivations, the affectation so evident amongst the English, long subsequent to the Norman conquest, of designating persons and places by *French* appellations, as Beauclerk, De la Mere, &c. &c. But a no less ingenious conjecture is the one, which supposes it may refer to its natural position, between two seas, or near the point, where two powerful tides contend for fluctuating mastery*.

Evidently

* *Bimaris*, Horace applies to the city of Corinth, from a similar circumstance:

“Laudabunt alii clara Rhodon, aut Mitilene
Aut Ephesum bimarise Corinthi
Mænia.”

LIB. I. OD. 7.

Evidently the castle was the parent of the town, and consequently the history of both must be intimately connected. The erection of this fortress was subsequent to its two proud rivals upon the same straits, Conway, and Caernarvon. The necessity of a third strong hold, within so small an extent, arose from Rhyddlan on the opposite shore, often being in possession of the Welsh princes; the facilities afforded by Anglesea, for supplies of provisions, and as a retreat in disastrous times for the discomfited Cambrians; among whom there still existed a strong insurrectionary spirit, and an ardent desire of regaining their independence. A. D. 1277 Prince Llewelyn was constrained to sue for peace, after a long desultory warfare. This was granted by king Edward the first upon the following humiliating conditions. "That Llewelyn should pay to the king for his favour and good will, 50,000 marks; that the cantref Rôs, where the king's castle of Teganwy stood; the cantref Ryvanior, where Denbigh is; the cantref Tegengle where Ruthlan standeth; and cantref Dyffryn Clywd; where Ruthyn is should remain to the king and his heirs for ever; and that the prince should yearly pay for the isle of Anglesea 1000 marks, which payment should begin at the Michaelmas next ensuing; and that he should also pay 5000 marks out of hand; and if the prince died without issue, the island should revert to the king and his heirs. The prince was also required to come to England to do homage*. The insults attendant on this submission of the prince and his attendant nobles at the court of London, and the irascible sense of degradation, led to an insurrection far more formidable in its aspect, than the one preceeding the state of humiliation, that induced it. The theatre of war was transferred to Anglesea, and the desperate and successful stand made by the Welsh in the vicinity of Beaumaris, the defeat of the favourite scheme of Edward's in the complete reduction of the country to his yoke, and the loss he sustained on that occasion, probably excited his attention to prevent such disasters in future, by the erection of a formidable fortress, which

* Rymer's Fœdera vol. II. p. 88.

which might at any time facilitate his advance over the Menai, or cover his retreat to the strong hold of Rhyddlan. But the death of Llewelyn with that of his brother David soon after, manifestly for a time diverted the design of the English monarch; and the birth of the prince of Wales in Caernarvon castle, which occasioned the subsequent formal submission of the principality to the English government, by removing all suspicion of revolt, apparently precluded the consequent necessity. If, as observed by Mr. Grose, the castle of Beaumaris was erected in the year 1295, then it is highly probable, that the insurrections under Rhys ap Meredydd, Maelgwyn, Vychan, and Madoc, about the year 1290, while the English monarch was engaged in a serious dispute, with the king of France at Guienne, again suggested the expediency. On Edward's return he proceeded in person to Conway to meet the insurgents; whom having completely routed, he crossed over the Menai with his army into Anglesea; where he erected 'a strong fortress, which he called *Boumarish*, as a check to the natives of that island*."

From the period of erection to the time of Charles the first it does not appear to have been at all conspicuous on the page of history. The first governor appointed by the founder, was, Sir William Pickmore, a Gascon, who was long constable of the castle and captain of the town. It is said to have been extremely burthensome to the country, occasioned by the frequent quarrels between the garrison and the inhabitants of the vicinity. The governor had an annual stipend of forty marks, afterwards increased to forty pounds, and the garrison usually consisted of twenty four men†; which from complaints made
against

* Holinshead's Chronicle.

† After the siege in 1648 the annual salary of the constable is stated at 40l. of the captain 12l. 3s. 4d. and each man 4d. a day. But out of this a proportionable deduction was to be made for letters and intelligence, and for the gratification of *itinerant preachers*, who came out of the adjacent counties to the island for the [spiritual instruction of the inhabitants by preaching and prayer.

its general misconduct, an order, of removal was sent to Sir Rowland Villeville,* the constable in the reign of Henry the Seventh. From that time the garrison was wholly withdrawn till the year 1642, when the earl of Dorset being constable, his deputy, Thomas Cheadle Esq. furnished it with men and ammunition, and made every possible preparation for putting the place in a respectable state of defence in favour of royalty. Thomas, the first lord Bulkeley, having succeeded to the constablenesship, his son, Colonel Richard Bulkeley, assisted by several gentlemen of the county, held it for the king till the year 1648; at which time the whole island had risen en masse for the purpose of endeavouring to aid in the restoration of the unfortunate monarch's affairs. About this time several diversions were made for the purpose of setting at liberty the king, then a prisoner in Carisbrooke castle, in the Isle of Wight. Particularly two powerful ones, by the Welsh under Sir John Owen, and the Scotch, headed by the duke of Hamilton: therefore the islanders supposing, they had an equal right in their monarch, and his future destiny, and being equally desirous of defending their ancient liberties, as any of their fellow subjects; determined not to be behind them in their exertions on behalf of injured and insulted royalty. Resolutions were immediately drawn up, and it was deemed proper by a council of war, that a general declaration should be published, subscribed by all the inhabitants, from the age of sixteen to sixty. This curious document, more expressive of the virulence of party, than calculated to retrieve the ruined state of the king's cause, is couched in the following terms:—

“ We the inhabitants of the isle of Anglesey, whose names are hereunto subscribed, after mature consideration, and hearty invocation of the name of God for directions and assistance, do remonstrate and declare to our fellow-subjects and neighbours whom it may concern, that we having, according to our bounden duty and allegiance, preserved the said island in due obedience

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to

* This Knight, who assumed also the appellation of *Brittayne*, was a reputed illegitimate son of Henry the Seventh.

to our most dread sovereign Lord, king Charles, during the time of this intestine war and rebellion, and, by God's blessing upon our careful endeavours, defended the same until the enemy had over-mastered the whole kingdom (a few strong holds excepted) this being the only county of England or Wales, for two months together kept entire, under his Majesty's authority and command; and being then, through the vast number of men and horse threatened to be poured in upon us (finding no possible expectance of relief) enforced to submit to the then prevailing power; do now, out of conscience towards God, and loyalty towards his anointed, with all humbleness prostrate ourselves, our lives and fortunes, at his Majesty's feet, resolving with the utmost exposal of all that we are or have, to preserve the said island, together with the castle and holds therein, in due obedience to his sacred Majesty, his heirs and lawful successors, against all rebellious opposers and invaders whatsoever; and do also, with sincerity of heart, profess that we will, according to our several degrees, places and callings, maintain the true protestant religion by law established, his Majesty's royal prerogative, the known laws of the land, just privileges of parliament, together with our own and fellow-subjects legal properties and liberties. And we also do farther declare and protest, that we shall and will account all those that do, or shall stand, in opposition hereunto, to be enemies and traitors to their king and country, and accordingly to be proceeded against, being most ready to contribute our best abilities for their reducement, and reinstating of our gracious sovereign (who hath long endured the tyranny and oppression of his barbarous and bloody enemies to his rights, dominions and dignity, according to the splendour of his most illustrious progenitors. Given under our hands the 14th day of July, 1648."*

But though this strong remonstrative memorial was drawn up against the wickedness of rebellion, and the royal standard joined by numerous bodies of armed men, mustered from various parts of North-Wales, and headed by the nobility and

* Then follows a numerous list of signatures, &c.

and gentry, who professedly were determined to carry resistance to the last extremity; yet from want of unanimity, treachery, or cowardice, when the hour for the trial of their patriotism arrived, courage and loyalty instantly vanished from their ranks; a general dismay and discomfiture ensued: and the troops, unable to make much effectual resistance against the formidable force, employed for the reduction of the fortress, under the command of General Mytton, was obliged to surrender; but obtained from the besiegers honourable terms of capitulation. Articles of agreement were drawn up, and signed by the parliamentary commissioners, and those appointed for the purpose by the governor of the castle, on behalf of the inhabitants of Anglesea*. The garrison surrendered on the second of October 1648†, and on the ninth of the same month, instruments were interchanged, by which it was stipulated, that the estates of persons within the island should be relieved from sequestration, on condition of their paying one twenty-fifth of their value; and that they should be permitted to compound for the same, after the rate of two years income for all estates of inheritances, and for smaller estates in proportion. This mulct was to be liquidated by instalments, and the first sum paid into the hands of Colonel George Twistleton amounted to 7000*l.* of current English money. This payment was made within fourteen days after the surrender of the castle, and the money

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statedly

* In the castle were found goods, arms, ammunition, &c. &c. amounting, according to a partial valuation, to the sum of 330*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* which were delivered up to General Mytton by Sir Richard Bulkeley.

† Mr. Pennant observes, that Colonel Sir Richard Bulkeley, and several gentlemen of the county held it for the king till June 1646; when it surrendered on honourable terms to General Mytton." See *Tour in Wales* Vol. III. p. 30, Octavo Edition. A manuscript penes me, synchronizes with this date. The above account in the text is extracted from a description of the general rising in Anglesea, and the taking of Beaumaris castle, drawn up by the Rev. Mr. Williams, master of the grammar school, in the year 1669, to which the reader is referred for a more circumstantial account of the capitulation and the concomitant events, which led to the submission of the whole island to the parliamentary commissioners.

statedly appropriated "towards the satisfaction of two months pay to the officers and soldiers, employed in the present expedition; and other charges incidental." By a manuscript account it appears the second was to a larger amount.

"An assessment of the second payment of 9000*l.* *commut* money paid by the inhabitants of Anglesea in Cromwell's time*."

Ld. Bulkely and son, Col. Bulkeley.....	1000
Mr. Hu Owen	700
Mr. O. Woods.....	500
Dr. Whyte	1000
Mr. Bold and his nephew (Bold)	500
Mr. Pierce Lloyd	500
Mr. O Holland	200
Mr. Wm. Trefarddw	50
Jno. Owen Maethlu	50
Wm. Owen Trefoelir	50
Lewis Lloyd, Capt. of Menai	60
Henry Lloyd Penhenllys, Captain of Tindacthwy.....	16
Henry Dafydd, Captain of Twrcelyn	50
Richard Bodychen, Gent.	80
Henry Owen Mosoglen.....	50
Dr. Williams	50
Mr. Jn Bodrel at Mr. Thelwal's	600
Mr. Jno Wynn Chwaen.....	50
Mr. Wm Bulkeley Coedan (first 200).....	5
Richard Pryddarch and his son.....	200
Mayor Pugh	20

5731

THOMAS WILLIAMS, Collector.

After the castle had been ceded to the parliamentary forces, General Mytton appointed Captain Evans his deputy constable of the fortress, and lieutenant governor of the town. On the death of General Mytton, Hugh Courtney was nominated to the

* Who was supposed to assess in all 20,000. Manuscript penes Paul Pantton, Esq. Plas Gwyn.

the situation, to whom succeeded the notorious Colonel *John Jones*; a character in which hypocrisy was so predominant, that it would be a difficult task to be under the necessity of deciding, which of the vices, in a moral view, constituted the paramount feature. The following unpublished letter, contrasted with the tenour of his conduct, will at once corroborate this statement, and elucidate the general complexion of the times.

Copy of a Letter from Major General Jones, one of the leading men in O. Cromwell's forces, to Captain Wray, Lieutenant of Beaumaris Castle.*

CAPTAYNE WREY,

“ I had noe tyme by the last post to write unto you, as touching the two men you mention to bee continued in Prison for stealing ye leades of ye castle. I have advised with the advocate general, and he tells me they cannot be tryed by martiall Law, without being sent upp hither with witnesses, soe that the way to proceed agst. them, is by putting them out of the list, and then cause them to be conducted and proceeded against att the Sessions, and likewise those that bought the leade of them—But if you conceive them to be penitent, and there is any hope of their reducement to a civill life, you may lett them return to their dutie, and continue the list upon their good behaviour, and forbear further proceedings agst. them. This I leave to your discretion.—I intend to allow Edwd. Gregrie for his encouragement to continue in the Garrison, ten pounds per annum to bee payd him quarterly, and the first fiftie shillings to be payd him now in May, which I intreate you to pay him. I understand likewise, that there are some few people in your Towne that meete often together to seek the Lord, and to improve each other in the knowledge and feare, and worship of

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God.

* Vide, “ *Historia Bellamarisci*” by the late Rev. William Williams Rector of Llandegfan, and the annexed chapelries, an unpublished manuscript penes Paul Panton, Esq. of Plas Gwyn.

God. I would have you to pay them fiftie shillings to bee by them att their meeting distributed, as they shall judge fitt either for the relief of their Poor, or otherwise as shall bee most conducive to the advancement of that good practize, I would have you likewise to pay to the hand of Cornett Jaffrey Parry, who dwells near Pwllhely in Caernarvonshire, five pounds which is to bee distributed by him, and those that walk in the fellowship of the gospel in that countie, in such a way as may bee most for the encouragement of such as carriè on the worke of the gospel there, whether it bee by relieving their poor, or otherwise, and Twentie pounds more I would have you to pay unto such persons as shall come for it, and are appointed to receive it by a note under Mr. Morgan Lloyd's hand, which is intended for the like use in other places where there is neede. There will bee as I take it 12l. remaining in your hand, beside the two men's pay which I leave with you till things bee better settled, or an opportunitie given mee to come to visit the garrison—I have noe more to trouble you,

Your assured friend,

April 28, 1657.

JO. JONES."

The successor of Jones was Sir John Carter of Cymel, in Denbighshire, who received the appointment from General Monk: a commission, which from the known moderation of Carter, appeared, as it proved, symptomatic of the public inclination, and the approaching restoration. In the year 1653, the estimated annual expence of the garrison amounted to seventeen hundred and three pounds. On the accession of Charles the Second, Lord viscount Bulkeley was re-instated as constable of the castle, which at present is the property of the crown, and the custody vested in Sir Robert Williams

Beaumaris Castle, like the style of architecture displayed in Edward's other fortresses, participates more of the eastern, than the western mode of building. It was erected upon lands belonging to several proprietors, whom the king removed to distant places, remunerating them by estates, probably seques-

erated from some of the late insurgents.* This spot was fixed upon with a view of surrounding it with a fosse, for the double purpose of defence, and bringing small craft to unload their cargoes under its walls for the use of the garrison. Part of this canal, till very lately, was visible under the name of *Llyn y green*, and the chains for mooring the vessels, at the quay. The lowness of the site, the expansive diameter of its circular towers and bastions, together with the dilapidated state of its walls, deprives this structure, though a prodigious one, of that prominent character, and imposing effect, so strikingly apparent in the prouder piles of Caernarvon and Conway. The shape approaches to an oblong square, comprising a case, encircling the castle. This outer ballium consists of low but massy embattled walls, flanked by ten circular bastion towers; one very large at each angle, and three of lesser dimensions in the intermediate spaces, on the north and south sides. Admission was obtained by two entrance gateways; the one to the west is formed by a large pointed arch between two strong square towers, defended by two other collateral ones of dissimilar shape. This was furnished with portcullises, and evidently formed the sallying postern. The principal entrance, facing the sea, is formed by two circular bastion towers, between which a pointed arched way was fortified with four portcullises: on the left rises a large square tower, and on the right is a curtain, or a long narrow advanced work, embattled and machicolated at top, intended for the defence of those employed on the canal for the supply of

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the

* The king found the land, which he had selected for the purpose in possession of the descendants of Gweryd ap Rhys Goch, Eineon ap Meredydd, Gryffydd ap Evan, and Eineon ap Tegeryn. These proprietors he removed by a writ of *Excambius*; the first to Bodlewyddan, in the county of Flint, and to the three others he made a grant of lands, free from rent and services, in the townships of Erianallt and Tre'r Ddôl: and the remainder of their possessions he bestowed on his new corporation. In this transaction the monarch seems to have acted legally, by rendering *par pro pari*; but in equity it does not appear, how he obtained the lands given in exchange.

the garrison. Under an arch in this work, passed the wet fosse or moat surrounding the whole; and the barges or vessels might deliver their cargoes by a communication through an aperture in the upper part of the arch. The rings for mooring chains still remain in the walls of this projection, which is called the Gunner's walk. Within this fortified envelope, at a considerable equidistant space from the walls, stands the principal body of the castle, which is far superior in height to the envelope; and at a distance appears to rise majestically from it, as the base. Its form is nearly quadrangular, having a grand round tower at each angle, and the connecting curtains are flanked with another circular one in the centre of each face. The interior consists of an area, one hundred and ninety-feet square with obtuse corners, or, as described by Mr, Grose. "a square with the corners cantled off." The centre of the north west side consists of a magnificent hall, in length seventy feet, breadth twenty three, and of a proportionate height; with a range of five large pointed windows constituting a handsome front to the inner quadrangle. On the eastern side of the area are the remains of a chapel in form of a small theatre, the sides ornamented with receding pointed arches; and an elegant groined roof supported by ribs, springing from pilasters, between which are three lancet-shaped windows. A communication was made between various parts of the inner court, by means of a surrounding gallery about six feet wide, a considerable portion of which is at present intire. Within recesses, gained out of the thickness of the walls, in the sides of the gallery are several square apertures, apparently once furnished with trap doors, which opened into rooms beneath; but as no vestiges of descending steps are discoverable, it is difficult to ascertain their intended use. Mr. Grose surmises they may have been used for similar purposes, to which the two circular eastern towers were applied, viz. the confinement of prisoners. Emblematic that the reign of terror is gone, and that the spot,

is

"Where earth is loaded with a mass of wall,
The proud insulting badge of Cambria's fall,

By haughty Edward raised : and every stone
Records a sigh, a murder, or a groan,"

is no longer formidable ; a handsome tennis, fives court, and bowling green have been formed within the interior, for the amusement of those resident in the vicinity : and instead of dwelling upon the supposed horrid massacre of the Bards.

" The Muse delighted, owns a happier fate,
When no portcullis shuts the guarded gate ;
When walls that echoed to the plaints of woe
Repeat the milk-maid's song, the cattle's low ;
And where the embattled legion erst was drawn,
Exulting reason feasts upon the lawn*."

LLOYD.

The *Town* of Beaumaris by the command of Edward, after the erection of the castle, was surrounded with walls for its defence ; and every encouragement was given by that monarch for the rendering it a place of importance, adequate to the attention he had paid, and the expences he had incurred. It was placed under the protection of a corporation for the administration of civil justice, and other municipal regulations ; and endowed with great privileges, and lands to a considerable value. The estates of four principal territorial proprietors, removed under the political mandate for constructing the castle, were granted to be held by the corporation *in capite* of the king, and among numerous other favours and immunities, conferred on the inhabitants, were the following, viz, That they shall have a *free prison* in the castle. That no *Jews* shall dwell there. That if any of the said burgesses die, testate or intestate, their goods shall not be confiscated to the king ; but their *heirs* shall have the same. These, to persons, living in the present highly privileged age, may not appear of that weight and consequence, as they did to those suffering under the oppression of feudal privation, and the tyranny of arbitrary exaction : and to enable

* The castle field forms part of Lord Bulkeley's grounds.

enable persons properly to appreciate their value, an extensive acquaintance with the ancient laws, respecting property, compared with the existing liberal system of British jurisprudence, is an indispensable requisite. The darkness is past, but to render it visible, the eye, must be withdrawn from the light, and an extended retrospect taken through all the shades of its gradual adumbrations and dimness. Encouraged by such fostering care, and under the auspices of future monarchs, it is probable Beaumaris became a thriving and respectable place. Two centuries ago, it appears to have possessed some commercial importance, for Sir John Wynne, in characterising the inhabitants of the three castellated towns on the Menai, describes them, as “ The lawyers of Caernarvon, the *merchants* of Beaumaris, and the gentlemen of Conway.” And Mr. Lloyd supposes that a century and a half ago, it was a place of considerable traffic, from the local tokens, circulated by its opulent tradesmen, as substitutes for copper coin, and which were common at that time in trading places. The present town consists of several streets, of which one, terminated by the castle, is very handsome, and the houses in general are well built.

*The site of St. Meugan's** is still shewn in a field, near the new battery; but at present not the smallest traces of the building are visible. This was the chapel of ease to LLANDEGFAN, prior to the building of the chapel of St. Mary, or the chantry of our lady at Beaumaris; subsequent to that time, the former was gradually deserted, and finally fell into utter decay. Formerly a wake, or annual festival was kept on the spot, which for some years has been discontinued.

The Chapel of St. Mary, now the parochial church of Beaumaris, is a handsome structure, consisting of a chancel, nave, and two aisles, with a large square embattled tower. The north is called

* This person is described in Welsh manuscripts as, “ Meugan hên ap Cyndaf gwr o'r Ital. Bonedd y Saint. That is, Meugan the ancient son of Cyndaf, an Italian. Mr. Owen says, “ This Cyndaf, or Cyndav, came to Britain about A. D. 70, with the family of Bran, the blessed, when he returned from Rome, where he had been hostage for his son, Caradog, and which was the means of introducing christianity into this island.

called St. Mary's chapel, and the south that of St. Nicholas. In the chancel is a monument worthy of the traveller's notice. On an elegant altar tomb, lie two recumbent figures, well sculptured in gypsum or alabaster; the one a knight in armour with his head resting on an helmet, and a lion couchant at his feet; and a female figure by his side is habited in a long robe, richly ornamented round the neck: the hands of each are placed in a supplicating posture, and the feet pointing towards the east. Various diminutive figures, clad in the costume of monks and knights, decorate the sarcophagus of this singular monument, which is said to have been removed from Llanvaes, at the dissolution of that religious house; but as the arms, emblazoned on the surrounding pendent shields are obliterated, it is impossible to conjecture to whose memory it was originally erected. Mr. Pennant gives no positive information on the subject, nor could Sir Richard Colt Hoare meet with any historical documents respecting it, nor on what occasion it was placed in Beaumaris church. A *clue* may, however, be given to some admirer of sepulchral research, by stating, that on the south side of the altar a large mural oblong tablet bears the following devices, and inscriptions. At each angle near the top are two shields, encircled with the motto, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*; and under the one to the left, this inscription: "HENRICUS SYDNEY, ORDINIS GARTERII MILES PRÆSIDENS EX CONSILIIS MARCHIIS WALLIÆ DOMINUS DEPUTATUS IN HIBERNIA. Under the other, ANTONIUS SANTLEGER ORDINIS GARTERII, MILES QUONDAM DEPUTATUS IN HIBERNIA. Round a circle in the centre, GULIELMUS THWAYTES ARMIGER; and beneath in an horizontal line, OBIIT 20 DIE JANUARI, 1565. Below are two escutcheons, the one bearing this inscription, FRANCISCUS AGARD EX CONSILIIS HIBERNIÆ, the other EDVARDUS WATERHOWS ME POSUIT. At the bottom this motto,

NOSCE TEIPSUM FIDE ET TACITURNITATE*."

In

* Sir Henry Sydney had been lord deputy of Ireland, but died in England, A. D. 1586, and was interred at Penshurst in Kent. *Beauties*, Vol. VIII.

In the vestry adjoining were deposited the remains of lady *Beatrix Herbert*, daughter of the celebrated mirror of chivalry, the lord Herbert of Cherbury, historian of Henry the Eighth's reign. Near which lies interred the *Rev'd Gronwy Davies*, the concluding lines of whose epitaph form a fine contrast to one on a plain stone in the church-yard, quoted for its whimsicality by Mr. Bingley.*

“ Who has been our parish clark
Full one and and thirty years, I say,
Must here, alas ! lye in the dark
Bemoan'd for ever and for aye.”

GRONWY DAVIES.

“ Here lies learning, friendship love ;
Here lies innocence of the dove ,
Within this grave and in this dust
His ever-courteous body must
Until the resurrection lie ;—
Then he shall live, and *death shall die.*”

THE FREE SCHOOL was erected, and liberally endowed in the year 1603 by *David Hughes Esq**. whose liberality also extended

p. 1302. Holinshead says, he went twice to Ireland, and on each occasion was furnished with a new secretary. The first was Master Edward Waterhouse, who was knighted and made one of his majesty's council in Ireland ; and the other was Master Francis Agard, whom, for his fidelity, Sidney styled his *Fidus Achates*. Sir Anthony St. Leger was lord deputy of Ireland in the year 1539.

* North Wales, Vol I. p. 331,

† This beneficent man was born in humble life, about the middle of the sixteenth century, in the parish of *Llantrisant* in Anglesea. Leaving the island early he was engaged in a menial station ; but by prudence and perseverance accumulated in England a decent fortune, with which returning to his native place, he disposed of in acts of charity, and forming benevolent institutions. It is a subject of regret to the grateful part of mankind, that some register were not published, with biographical notices of such persons, who by their beneficence and wealth have distinguished themselves and enriched posterity, in erecting religious and charitable establishments ; as well as those,

tended in 1613, to the founding an excellent alms-house for six poor persons, to whom he granted small annuities. These apartments are situated about a mile out of the town, near the lodge gate to Baron-hill park, the noble proprietor of which has liberally extended the designs of the founder, by the addition of four others.

THE OLD TOWN HALL, built in 1563, under which were carefully kept the stocks, the ducking stool, and adjoining, the pillory, was a few years since taken down; and those instruments of civic justice, long held in terrorem, removed. On the site by the munificence of Lord viscount Bulkeley, has been erected a commodious and elegant *town hall*. The basement story includes a prison, and excellent shambles, secured with iron gates and railing. Above is a noble room, with other apartments, for the transaction of municipal business; the latter used for assemblies, is the finest ball-room in the principality. The town re-incorporated in the fourth year of Elizabeth, is governed by a mayor, recorder, two bailiffs, twenty four burgesses, two serjeants at mace, a town clerk, gaoler, four constables, and a water bailiff. It sends one member to parliament, and differing from every other Welsh borough, the elective franchise is vested in the mayor, bailiffs and capital burgesses, the common burgesses having no vote; the number of electors is consequently twenty-four.

The mayor is the returning officer, and lord Bulkeley, in a political view is considered the patron.

THE COUNTY HALL is a small low building, which both in appearance and accommodation evinces a strong claim upon the county gentlemen for a new and better edifice; nor in either
of

who have benefited society by their writings. The following just tribute of praise, alluding to the above character, is both poetical and chaste.

“ Again the active worth of Hughes appears
A blest Asylum for the wreck of years!
If there, his views the opening mind engage.
Here, he supports the trembling limbs of age;
His breast embraced within its Godlike plan,
At once the morn, and evening hours of man.”

of these views is the general provincial prison in a more respectable condition.

The CUSTOM-HOUSE stands on the green near the water's edge, and is the comptrolling office not only to the different ports on the island, but also to those on the Caernarvonshire side of the Menai.

Beaumaris is much frequented during the summer months by numerous genteel families, incited to take up a temporary residence here, for the sake of enjoying the pleasurable scenes this delightful part of the island affords; and for the salubrious benefits of sea-bathing. The sands are fine, but the beach is too much exposed to the vessels lying in the port, or passing the straits; especially while the accommodations are only dressing boxes fixed on the shore, no proper bathing machines having yet been introduced.

Two markets, on Wednesday, and Saturday, are well supplied with provisions, and the population, according to the late Census in the year 1801, amounted to 1576, and the number of houses were 267.

*Beaumaris Bay** consists of a very expansive opening in front of the town, and is so completely sheltered by the island of Priestholme and the great Ormeshead, that vessels of considerable burthen may ride in safety, during the most stormy weather, and forms a fine roadsted to ships navigating the Irish sea. The depth of water near the town is at ebb-tide from six to seven fathom; but the channel is narrow, scarcely exceeding a quarter of a mile in breadth. The greater part of the bay for several miles, when the tide is out, is left dry, and denominated the *Lavan Sands*. These are supposed to have once formed a habitable hundred, belonging to the territory of Arfon, which was overflowed by the sea in the sixth century.† Nor is the tradition

* Anciently called *Porth Wygir*.

† These sands received the appellation of *Wylofaen*, or the place of weeping, from the shrieks and lamentations of the inhabitants, when it was suddenly overwhelmed by the sea, in the days of Helig Voel ap Clunog, or Glanog. *Lavan* is an abbreviation, or corruption of *Traeth Telaven*, or the fermented heap; allusive to the boiling up of the waves though the quick sands.

tradition improbable, for numerous proofs may be adduced of the ocean having encroached upon this part of the coast. In the church-yard of Abergeley, a village in Caernarvonshire, Mr. Pennant mentions a stone bearing an inscription, relative at least to such progressive drepedation*. But a more convincing proof is the various trunks of oak trees nearly intire, which have been discovered at low water, lying in an extensive tract of hard loam, far from the present sea boundary. A more corroborative argument, because subject neither to conjecture nor misconstruction is, that there exists the clearest evidence that what is denominated *Beaumaris marsh*, extended a further way into the sea; and that within the two last centuries the boisterous element has made considerable ravages on these shores. A manuscript document†, written in the time of James the First, contains a terrier and description of various parcels of lands, situated in this vicinity, with their valuation; among which, are the following, though there does not exist at present, the least traces of such lands.

“ A certain parcel of land on the sea shore, extending from a place called Osmond’s Air, (the point) towards Cerrig gwyddel (the park) unto the sea.”

“ All the king’s Fish-yard of Limekylne, beneath Beaumaris until Ferryman’s Wharf, with the appurtenances.”

“ A certain pasture upon the sea shore, between the said wier, called Limekylne, and the house of Fryers at Llanfaes.”

“ The site of a wier and fish-yard at Osmond’s Air.”

“ Hewster’s wier, below the British brook Afon y Felin.”

“ But by reason, of the quantity of inhabitants, the decay of houses, the great mortality of late years, and other sad accidents, the premises do not amount to so much as before.”

These are arguments sufficiently illustrative, that the sea has been exerting its inundating powers on this part of the coast; and from whatever latent causes, has gained very considerably upon

* This will be particularly noticed in its appropriate place.

† Quoted in a Note to Lloyd’s Beaumaris Bay.

upon the land. Though many geologists are of opinion, that the advances and retreatings are reciprocal; and some extend that opinion to local cases.*

The ferry appears to have been considered the property of the crown as early as the time of Edward the First, and being a grand pass into Anglesea from the Snowdonian chain of natural fortifications, political necessity would be an inducement to aim at insuring the command of such a communication. In the reign of Edward the Second, a mandate was issued to Robert Power, Chamberlain of North Wales, to inspect into the state of the boat, then reported out of repair; and if it were found capable of being repaired, it was to be made sea-worthy at the expence of the bailiwick; but if the boat were in an irreparable state, a new one was to be built, and the cost allowed by the king. From this document it seems the crown was liable to furnish the boat†, though at the same time the inhabitants of Beaumaris, for the privilege of a ferry, paid annually thirty shillings into the Exchequer. The ferry was granted by charter to the Corporation, in the fourth year of Elizabeth; yet till within a few years past, the townsmen paid a similar chief rent for plying with boats below the green. The ferry lies near the town; and the place of embarking or landing, is the point anciently known under the appellation of *Penrhyn Safnes*, but afterwards Osmund's air; so called from a malefactor, who was executed there, and on his way to the fatal tree with hardened effrontery, observed, he was only going to take the air. After passing the channel, the distance over the sands, to Aber in Caernarvonshire,

* Mr. Rowlands supposes, that the depredations of the soft yielding parts of the shores of this island, have been compensated by the defensative banks it has thrown up in numerous instances. "Near Beaumaris the point, called *Osmund's Air*, and the *green* by the town are a mere collection of small pebbles, landed there by the underlating tempestuous force of the sea; though between these two beaches a considerable piece of land was, in lieu of what is stored up there, ravished and consumed away by the insulting element, to the very walls of the town."

MONA ANTIQ. REST. p. 6.

† Seabright's MSS. quoted by Mr. Pennant.

Caernarvonshire, the usual point generally made, is four miles. These at low water are firm and good walking, and the time proper for passing is two hours before and after ebb. Not to be disappointed, or subject to peril, passengers this way, should be acquainted with the particular and diurnal state of the tides. The natives have certain rules, which serve tolerably well for their general direction. These they commit to memory, and are similar to the following englyn.

“ Yn nydd, y Lloer newydd, ar naw-o'r glôch

Y gwlych y llanw eithaw;

Y llawn ddydd, y llanw a ddaw

I'r nôd lle bu 'r newidiaw

At nine o'Clock of Luna's change

'Tis full sea on the shore;

And on the day that Luna's full

'Tis full sea the same hour.”

This calculation was made for the *Traeth mawr*, but is equally applicable to the Lavan sands, allowing one hour later. The following table is a more accurate guide.

BEAUMARIS LAVAN SANDS.

Moon's	Age.	HIGH WATER.		LOW WATER.	
		H.	M.	H.	M.
1	16	11	18	5	6
2	17	12	6	5	54
3	18	12	54	6	42
4	19	1	42	7	30
5	20	2	30	8	18
6	21	3	18	9	6
7	22	4	6	9	54
8	23	4	54	10	42
9	24	5	42	11	30
10	25	6	30	12	18
11	26	7	18	1	6
12	27	8	6	1	54
13	28	8	54	2	42
14	29	9	42	3	30
15	30	10	30	4	18

N. B. That the moon's age being taken notice of by the rule in this table, you may obtain the time of high water at the

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aforementioned

aforementioned place. Observe when the moon is one or sixteen days old, it is high water at Beaumaris at 18 minutes past 11 o'clock. The day of the moon's age you have in the 6th column, on the left hand page of the calendar.

These precautions are essentially incumbent on the traveller to take; for during the intervals of tide, which precede the time of the sands being covered with the sea, they are frequently shifting, in many places become so quick, as to be very dangerous, and instances have occurred of persons having been lost, by imprudently attempting to cross them at such times. Equally perilous is the pass during foggy weather; but to prevent accidents, as many are obliged to adventure in all kinds of weather, a wise and humane regulation has been adopted: the large bell at Aber is rung, during the continuance of fog, to direct by its sound passengers to that line across the sands, passable with safety.

Between these sands and the town a narrow channel about one fourth of a mile wide has from six to seven feet depth of water at ebb-tide. The bay which lies before the town has good anchorage for ships of heavy burthen, having seven fathom at the lowest ebb. Notwithstanding this local advantage for maritime adventure the place has none, or very little trade, and depends principally for support on the numerous vessels, which lie here waiting for winds, or that run in, during heavy gales, to find security.

BARON HILL, the seat of *Thomas James Warren Bulkeley, Lord Bulkely*, is situated on an eminence above Beaumaris, at the head of an extensive lawn, sloping down to the town and castle, and finely screened and backed with umbrageous woods, that form great embellishments to this part of the island. The house was built in the year 1618, by Sir Richard Bulkeley, a most distinguished character in the reign of James the First*:
Being

* This eminent personage, the ancestor of the present peer, was a descendant of a very ancient family, originally settled in Cheshire, where they possessed considerable estates. Previous to the period in question, the family

Being a great favourite of the eldest son of that monarch, prince Henry, whom his father had appointed viceroy of Ireland, Sir Richard began to erect a magnificent mansion at Baron hill, for the reception of his royal friend on his progress to the viceroyalty: but the premature death of the young prince so affected him, that he ceased to prosecute the original plan; contenting himself with what was already completed; for his future family seat. The house has been greatly enlarged and improved, by its present noble possessor, under the direction of *Mr. Samuel Wyat*. Nothing can perhaps exceed the situation of this mansion, as to eligibility; but the site and the structure by no means correspond. The height is too great both for the elevation of the ground, and the extent of the base. There is also a great deficiency as to the proportionate range of the different stories, and a want of uniformity between the tiers of windows. Destitute of a vestibule, the semi-circular central front appears meagre, and the two side doors savour too much of an entrance to a theatre. The kind of conical slated roofs, visible above the parapet walls present an unseemly appearance at a distance, and add to the confined effect of the upper stories. Mr. Knight justly observes speaking of the appropriate situations for domestic buildings, "There are scarcely any buildings, except bridges, which will bear being looked down upon, a fore shortning from the roof to the base, being necessarily awkward and ungraceful*." Had he viewed Baron Hill, he might have been furnished with another architectural canon, that few structures except castles, if very lofty, and erected upon eminent sites, will admit of being looked up to; the two combined elevations, producing a continuation of height apparently distorted, like the human shadow in a declining sun. In justice however, to the skill of the scientific architect, and the judgment of his noble employer, it is proper to observe, that in this, as in numerous other cases, observant persons are

N 2

prone

family residence in Wales, was at a mansion called Court-mawr, in the subjacent town, and afterwards at Plas hên.

* An Analytical Inquiry into the principles of Taste, Part II. p. 22.

prone to decide upon the display of taste, as though it had no limits; and the exertions of art, as though they were unrestrained. The site was already fixed by the previous erection, and the alterations were to be made on a building, that formed a part only of an intended structure, far exceeding the present in extent and grandeur.

The grounds surrounding this charming residence, are richly diversified by nature, and variegated by art; the lawns, groves, and bridges, with other ornamental buildings, except in one instance, finely disposed; and the numerous walks and rides, judiciously laid out. But the view from Baron hill far surpasses all, and is justly the boast of the island.

“ Now Muse ascend the sylvan summits gay
That tower above the town—the valley—bay
Where now unheeded lies the heap of stones,
The altar’s ruin and the mouldering bones;
The soil once softened by Contrition’s eyes
On all that’s mortal of St. Meugan lies,
Who blindly thought, that pain’s inflictive rod
Would lead the lonely hermit up to God.”

LLOYD.

At a small distance from this consecrated spot is a semicircular bastion fort, mounted with four-pounders, and from this part of the elevation, the prospect is enchantingly gratifying. The sea to the northward forms a most magnificent bay, between the coast of Lancashire, and the isle of Man, the Menai opening into it, between the Orme’s head and Priestholm, with all the grandeur of an American river. The limits of the water, in front, expand into a vast amphitheatre, formed by a semicircular range of mountains, piled on each other, the chief of the Snowdonian range; while their diversified summits, spiring to the clouds, seem to intermix with them; and their cultivated sides, and richly verdant bases at length, gradually sloping to the margin of the wave, pleasingly relieve the eye, fatigued with the strenuous ken, over sterile sublimity. The distant alpine ridge, that flanks the eastern side of Nant Francon, the

huge protrusive promontory of Penmonmawr, with its attendant Penmon bach, and the enormous mass of Llandudno, rising like an island out of the sea, are rude, but striking features in the prospect; and afford strong and impressive contrasts to the softer parts of the scenery.

“ I was sorry to observe the effect of the elegant view of the Welsh mountains, from the house totally destroyed by the small square building in front, called a fort*. I cannot conceive how gentlemen should suffer themselves to be so much misled, as to have their agents, without an atom of taste, construct these, singularly called, ornamental buildings. The present is a white church-like castle, an apparent excrescence evidently useless, and glaringly unnatural. Lord Uxbridge has one of these white ornamental structures, on the side of the Menai, opposite to Plâs Newydd: but superior to all that I have ever seen of this description, is that of Mr. Thomas, of Coed Halen, which provokingly obtrudes itself into almost every good view of the fine old walls, and castle of Caernarvon. If any of these buildings are to be defended, as I know some of them are, on the score of their being land-marks to the mariner, my objection must cease; utility must ever be considered to supersede elegance. But this is not often the case; lord Uxbridge’s building is far distant from the sea, and other eminences near Caernarvon might have been adopted besides the present, standing, as it does, almost close to the castle. A friend of mine remarked, to some observations that I had made on this subject, that, in a tour through South Wales, he had almost invariably observed, that the only rage for spoiling the scenes by these strange monstrosities, was where the surrounding country was more than usually beautiful. Near old castles,

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or

* Bingley’s North Wales, p. 337. In an old plan of Beaumaris, on this eminence there appears a much more picturesque object as a building, a *windmill*. The removal of which has long been a subject of general regret to the neighbourhood, especially the poor, who, during the summer months are obliged to incur additional expence and trouble by having their corn ground across the Menai, at Aber, and other places.

or monastic remains, he had generally been provoked with a deformed castellated pleasure house, or a lately erected ruin, and invariable in the very place from whence of all others it should have been kept away."

LLANVAES OR LLANFAES PRIORY, now called the *Friars*, was a monastery, founded about the year 1237, by Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, prince of North Wales, over the spot where his princess, who died that year, according to her own desire was interred*. This princess, who was the natural daughter of king John, by a lady of the noble house of Ferrers, had been given by that monarch in marriage to Llewelyn, as a reward for the due observance of a treaty with the English in the year 1203; or, as a means of securing those future advantages against his rebellious nobles, in the marches, which he might suppose would naturally result from such an alliance. This unfortunate daughter of a more unfortunate father, is said to have had an illicit amour with William de Bruce, lord of Buellt, the avowed and open enemy of Llewelyn; for which infidelity she was shut up in prison, and her devoted paramour suffered an ignominious death, by the command of the injured husband. Whether she were innocent†, according to the statement of some writers, or the

* A son of a Danish king, lord Clifford, and numerous barons and knights, who fell in the Welsh campaigns, were also buried here, Leland's *Collectanea*, vol I. p. 65. Here also were deposited the remains of Gryffyd Grygg, an eminent poet of Mona, who flourished from about A. D. 1330, to 1370. He was the able opponent of the British Ovid, Dafydd ap Gwilym, as appears from Gryffydd's monody, written by his generous rival.

† The general tenour of her conduct appears to have been exceedingly amiable. More than once, was Cambria indebted to this lady, for effectually holding out the olive branch between her husband and father; especially at one desperate crisis. "At this time, 1212, The king passing the river of Conway, encamped there by the river side, and sent part of his army with guides of the country to burn Bangor, which they did, taking Rôtpart the bishop prisoner, who was afterwards *ransomed for two hundred hawkes*. Then the prince seeing all England and Wales against him, and a great part of his country won from him, thought it best to entreat with the king, and thereupon he sent Joan his wife to her father, to *make a peace*, who being a discreet woman found the means. Powell's *Hist. of Wales*, p. 265.

the amorous monarch, on her contrition, forgave the frailty of the fair, certain it is, either as a tender memorial of regard, or to do honour to the princess's memory, out of respect to her brother Henry, king of England, that he erected this mark of posthumous attention: which renders, the criminal part of her conduct at least doubtful, and may in some degree serve to wipe away the deep stain, which history has cast upon her fame: The monastery was consecrated by Howel, bishop of Bangor, whodied in the year 1240, and dedicated to *St. Francis**. The Monks were of that division of Franciscans, usually denominated *minor*, or from going without shoes, *bare-footed*, friars. Their church and some other parts of these houses were destroyed, and their lands devastated by the English troops, who had quelled an insurrection, excited by a chieftain, named Madoc, soon after the death of the last Llewelyn. In consideration of their misfortunes, Edward the Second, remitted their accustomed taxes, which previous to the war formed an annual levy of twelve pounds ten shillings. During the rebellion of Owen Glyndwr, the religious of this house either did favour the pretensions of that military adventurer to the sovereignty of Wales, or were suspected of doing so; in consequence of which, king Henry, on his first taking the field against the Welsh Chieftain, put several of the friars to the sword, carried away prisoners the rest, and plundered the convent. The monarch, however, feeling some compunction for this outrage upon the church, committed in the ebullition of his rage, against what he deemed the vilest perfidy, set at liberty the ecclesiastical captives, and made restitution to the house: but re-peopled it with recluses from an English monastery. His son, Henry the Fifth, added some farther regulations, making

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a provision

* “ I am informed that on the farm of Cremlyn Monach, once the property of the friary, is cut on a great stone, the effigies of its patron St. Francis; and that his head is also cut on the stone of a wall in a street of Beaumaris, to which all passengers were to pay their respects under pain of a forfeit.” Pen-nant's Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 35.

a provision for eight friars, with a condition, that six should be English, and two Welsh. At the dissolution, the convent and its possessions were disposed of by Henry the Eighth to one of his courtiers. On this occasion posthumous changes evinced, that human vicissitude is not confined to the living, but also extends to the dead. The body of Princess *Joan*, which for near three centuries had been suffered to rest undisturbed, and over whose tomb propitiatory masses had been continually offered up to heaven, were doomed no longer to be requiescent under the hallowed roof. The ferocity of the times converted the sacred building into a *barn*, ejected Joan from her little tenement, and the stone coffin in which the remains of royalty had been deposited, was placed near a small brook, and for the space of two hundred and fifty years used as a trough for watering the horses belonging to an adjacent farm! Lord Bulkeley lately, however, very laudably caused it to be removed from that unhallowed state of degradation, and it is now placed under a small gothic building in the park at Baron-hill.* The family of Whyte, now extinct, afterwards possessed the Friary, and built on the site a respectable house, which has since been enlarged, modernised, and the grounds improved. At present it is a seat belonging to *Sir Robert Williams*, representative in parliament for the county of Caernarvon. No vestiges of any part of the monastery are traceable, except the chapel, still used as an outhouse. Over an arched gateway, in an inner court, is a shield charged with the arms, cut in stone, of *Colkwyn ap Tagno*, lord of *Efionydd* and *Ardudwy*, sable a chevron between three fleurs de liz argent. He was founder of one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, and ancestor of the last resident family. The date beneath, 1623, is probably allusive to the time when the religious house was converted into a private residence. Llanfaes, by which name the friary was designated,

* This precious relique of antiquity is preserved a little to the north of the house. The sides, ends, and bottom, are four inches thick, the length, inside, about five feet eight inches, the widest breadth eighteen inches, and ten inches deep.

signated, and the present parochial church, was so called from a desperate conflict which took place near this spot, between the Saxons under king Egbert,* and the Welsh, led on by the brave *Merfyn Frych*, who had married *Essyllt*, heiress of North Wales, daughter of *Cynan Tindaethwy*. The West Saxon monarch, after having over-run various parts of Wales, invaded *Mona*; and, as though he supposed partial seizure equivalent to permanent possession, he gave it a severating denomination, "*Anglorum insula*," an English isle; but he was soon driven from his newly acquired territory by the determined bravery of the Welsh, with great loss; leaving nothing indicative of his power, but an empty name.

TRE'R CASTELL, now occupied as a farm house, is an old castellated mansion, for centuries the residence of the descendants of *Marchudd*, lord of *Uwch Dulas*, in Denbighshire. Here also,

" In days, when outrage occupied the hour,
When law and justice bent the knee to power,
The chieftain's safety was the moated wall,
The hero's helmet and the crowded hall,"

LLOYD.

lived in a style of magnificent hospitality, in the thirteenth century, Sir TUDUR AP GRONWY. This valiant and patriotic knight was one of the great landed proprietors who, holding their estates *in capite* of the crown, did homage to Prince Edward, as the first Prince of Wales, at Chester, in the twenty-ninth year of King Edward the First. Of this distinguished character, the following anecdote is recorded in the Welsh history. "The King (Edward the First) hearing, that Sir Tudur had assumed the honour of knighthood, without his permission, called him

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* Saxon Chron. 72. This valuable document simply mentions a battle having been fought on the spot. That it was *Egbert* is highly probable, from the synchronism and the circumstance of having carried his arms as far as *Mona*; which no other Saxon monarch before him had done. *Caradoc of Llangarfan*, styles it "The sore battle of *Llanfaes*." *Powell's Hist. of Wales*, p. Turner in his *History of the Anglo-Saxons* is silent on the subject.

to an account for so extraordinary a procedure: Sir Tudur replied, that by the laws of the *Round Table* he had a right to do so, having the three requisites—first, he was a gentleman—secondly, he had an ample fortune—and thirdly, as to his prowess, he was ready to fight any man, be he whom he would, that was hardy enough to dispute it; the King, admiring the dignity of his manner, confirmed to Sir Tudur the honour he had so justly assumed, and so well deserved.”* His three sons, Ednyfed of Tre'r Castell, Gronwy of Penmynydd, and Rhys of Arddreiniog, were styled the three *temporal* lords of Anglesea; the three *spiritual* ones being, the archdeacon of Anglesea, the president of Holyhead, and the prior of Penmon.

In a monody, composed in memory of this personage, he is styled—

“ Trafn Tre'r Castell feddgell Fyddgar.”

The support of the plentiful *mead* cellar at Tre'r Castell.

The Welsh were particularly fond of a beverage, called Hydromel, Metheglin, or *Mead*; and Queen Elizabeth, descended from this house, not fancying the article could be manufactured so well elsewhere, had a large quantity annually imported from Wales for her own use. The following curious receipt for brewing this potent liquor is given in an ancient Welsh manuscript. “Gather a bushel of sweet brier leaves, and a bushel of thyme, half a bushel of rosemary, and a peck of bay leaves: these being well washed, seethe them in a furnace of fair water; let them boil the space of half an hour, and then pour out all the herbs and water into a vat, and let it stand till it be but milk warm, and strain the water from the herbs; and to every six gallons of this water, put one gallon of fine honey, and put into the *boorn* (that is the wort or boiled liquor) and labour together half an hour, then let it stand five days, stirring it twice or thrice a day: then take the liquor and boil it anew, and when it doth seethe, skim it as long as any scum remaineth; when it is clear, put into the vat as before, and there let it be cooled.

* Powell's Hist. of Wales.

cooled. You must have in readiness a kind of new ale or beer, which as soon as you have emptied, suddenly whelm it upside down, and set it up again, and presently put in the Metheglin, (N. B. this in room of yeast) and let it stand three days a working, and then turn it up in barrels, tying at every tup hole (by a pack thread) a little bag of beaten cloves and mace, to the value of half an ounce. It must then stand half a year before drank."

At a small distance from Tre'r Castell, is CASTELL ABERLLIENAWG, where are the vestiges of a small ancient fort, at the back of a neat farm house, near the sea beach. From the remains it appears to have been fortified by a circular tower at each angle, with a square tower or keep in the centre. The whole was surrounded by a deep foss, and a hollow, probably once a covered-way, extends to the shore, and at the termination is a large artificial mound, on which was a redoubt, intended as a defence for covering the landing of troops and stores. This fortress was founded, in the year 1098, by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, and Hugh, the red-headed Earl of Shrewsbury, when they leagued together against the Welsh, attacked Anglesea, and by the treachery of Owen ap Edwyn, father-in-law and chief counsellor to prince Gryffydd ap Cynan, succeeded in over-running the island; where they committed more savage barbarities on the poor natives, than ever stained the annals of any country. The particulars of the invasion are thus related in the Welsh Chronicle.

"The year following being 1096, Hugh de Montgomerie earle of Arundell and Salopshurie, whom the Welshmen call Hugh Goch, that is to say, Hugh the red-headed, and Hugh Vras, that is Hugh the Fat, earle of Chester, and a great number of nobles more, did gather a huge armie, and entred into North Wales, being thereto moved by certaine lords of the countrie. But Gruffyth ap Conan the prince, and Cadogan ap Blethyn, took the hilles and mountaines for their defence; because they were not able to meet with the earles, neither durst they well trust their owne men. And so the earles came over

against the ile of Mon or Anglesey, where they did build a castell of Aberlhiennawe. Then Gruffyth and Cadogan did go to Anglesey, thinking to defend the ile, and sent for succour to Ireland; but they received verie small. Then the treason appeared, for Owen ap Edwyn (who was the prince's cheefe counsellor, and his father-in-law, whose daughter Gruffyth had married, having himselfe also married Everyth, the daughter of Conryn, aunt to Cadogan) was the cheefe caller of these strangers into Wales, who openlie went with all his power to them, and did lead them to the ile of Anglesey, which thing when Gruffyth and Cadogan perceived, they sailed to Ireland, mistrusting the treason of theire owne people. Then the earles spoiled the ile, and slew all that they found there. And at the verie same time, Magnus, the sonne of Haroald, came with a great navie of ships towards England, minding to laie faster hold upon that Kingdome than his father had done, and being driven by chaunce to Anglesey, would have landed there, but the earles kept him from the land. And there Magnus with an arrowe stroke Hugh earle of Salop in the face, that he died thereof, and suddenlie either part forsooke the ile, and the Englishmen returned to England, and left Owen ap Edwyn, prince in the land, who had allured them thither.*"

In the time of Charles the First this fortress was garrisoned and defended, for the Parliament, by Sir Thomas Cheadle; but was taken by Colonel Robinson in 1645, or 1646.†"

PENMON PRIORY, about a mile to the north-east of the former, is similarly situated, near the sea shore. The founder of the monastery was Maelgwyn Gwynedd, king of Wales, in the sixth century, and the religious of this house, and with the recluses of Priestholm, appear to have belonged to the same foundation: both being in old deeds denominated, "*Canonici de insula Glannauch.*" Idwal, a son of Gryffydd ap Cynan,‡ prince of North Wales,

* P. 156.

† Plas Gwyn MSS. quoted in Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 37.

‡ This prince, like many in the days of superstition, willing to make provision for eternity, by posthumous charity, bequeathed legacies to a number of

Wales, was prior of Penmon in the year 1140, who is described by the poets, as the "sunshine of the country." Before the year 1221, it was refounded, or subjected to new regulations, by Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, filled with black monks of the *Benedictine* order, and the house dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. On the dissolution, the annual revenues were estimated at 47l. 15s. 3d., which in the sixth year of Queen Elizabeth were granted to Mr. John More.* The remains consist of the refectory, under which appears to have been cells, and over, the dormitory, with the conventual church: part of the latter is at present used for parochial service. To the reflecting mind, this spot, in the bosom of retirement, yet forcibly pointing to tales of other times, is peculiarly interesting, by the association of ideas it creates between past events and present manners—a spot that seems to place the soul between the living and the dead: the still secluded retreat, where contemplation may wean it from the trifles of earth; and devotion, on the wings of faith and hope, waft it to heaven. The church, the present mansion-house, and the ruinous refectory, are one connected building, forming three sides of a square court, open towards the east. The latter is in length twenty-seven yards, by ten broad, and appears to have had three stories or tiers of apartments. The walls are in places six feet thick, and on the southern side is a square-headed door-way: part of this is now converted into stabling. Though, as a structure, the *church* externally furnishes nothing striking, yet the interior will amply repay the traveller for a little time, spent in antiquarian research. The shape originally appears to have been cruciform, but the north transept is down. What forms the present building, evidently the chancel or choir, is twenty one yards in length, and nine in breadth; and in the eastern window are a few remains of painted glass. The
nave

of churches and religious institution; among several others, to the church of Bangor two hundred and forty *pence*, and to this priory one hundred and twenty. Sums, however trifling they may sound now, yet at the period they were granted, amounted to a most valuable consideration.

* Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

nave, now disused, is probably a small part of the original body remaining, measuring sixteen yards long, by six broad. The square tower in the centre rests upon four circular arches, having treble zigzag and billeted mouldings, supported by small round columns, with plain plinths, and simple capitals. The south transept, sixteen feet square, has its sides ornamented with arcades, consisting of small circular-headed arches, with double zigzag mouldings, and supported by semicircular pilaster columns, with plain plinths and capitals.*

On the right of the altar is a mural monument, consisting of a black marble slab, surmounted by an urn of white Parian, bearing the following inscription,

“Sacred

To the memory of HUGH HUGHES, Esqr. of Lleiniog, and Mary his wife, who lie beneath.

He	}	died	{	Feb. 19th, 1774	}	aged	{	63
She				Nov. 1st. 1788				82

In the south transept, within one of the arched recesses, is a monument erected to the memory of a father of the lady, married to Sir Richard Bulkeley. Above the slab is a canopy, under which is a shield, charged with a coat sable, a chevron ingrailed, between three human heads erased; and on one side a winged hour glass, on the other a death's head, with *memento mori*. Beneath, on a square brass tablet this inscription—
 “HERE LYETH THE BODY OF SIR THOMAS WILSFORD, OF ILDINGE, IN THE COUNTY OF KENT, KNT. WHO DIED YE 25TH OF JANUARY, 1645.

* Here is a structure, that bears the stamp of very high antiquity, even so far back as the seventh century; and several of its parts exhibiting that style, which has generally been, though most probably erroneously, attributed to the Saxons. Architecture and arts declined at Rome, after the irruption of the Barbarians, and the buildings erected subsequent to that period by the Britons, whose knowledge of art was derived from thence, would consequently partake of the debased style. It is therefore reasonable to suppose, that the ancient edifices, constructed of stone, and having circular arches, round columns, and certain distinctive capitals were the work of the Britons; especially when it is known, the early Saxon churches were, as Alfred and Bede express it, *Getembrio*, or made of wood.

1645. In the lower part of the present church is a benetier, now used as a baptismal font, instead of a very ancient and curious one, consisting of a solid block of stone with a circular concavity, hollowed out at top, and having a kind of rude plinth round the base. This is a specimen of the earliest fonts, probably coeval with the original monastic church. Near this place is a *Efynon vair*, or holy-well, surrounded by a wall and stone seats, the water of which appears to possess no mineral property, but is extremely pure from any earthy particles. Formerly it was crowdedly frequented, being reputed efficacious in various eruptive diseases, and the lagging rear of superstition still considers it endued with salutary powers.

Three quarters of a mile distance from the shore, is the island of PRIESTHOLM, YNIS SEIRIOL, GLANNAUCH, or *Puffin Island*. It is of an oval shape, about a mile in length, and half in breadth, extremely lofty, and except on the side opposite the promontory of Penmon, bounded by precipices: and even that is a bold escarpment. The land to the edge of these cliffs, slopes gradually from the summit, and is covered with a fine turf. At present there are no inhabitants. Seiriol*, a saint in the sixth century here erected his cell, part of which has been erroneously stated, still to remain. Near the centre is an
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* Seiriol was the son of Owen Danwyn ap Einion ab Cunedda, a holy man, who lived in the beginning of the sixth century, and established a school at Penmon in Mona, afterwards called *Car Seiriol*. Owen's Cambrian Biography. Of this British saint various legendary stories are related. Tradition reports, that the two saints Seiriol and Cybi held weekly meetings at certain springs, which are known under the appellations of their respective names to the present day. They are near Clorach in the parish of Llandyfrydog, and the efficacy of their waters, in popular estimation, continues undiminished. What in the dark ages passed for a miracle, would now excite a smile. That, which ever way Seiriol travelled, the sun always followed him, and which ever way Cybi travelled, the sun always met him: from the circumstance of the former proceeding *westward* in the morning, and *eastward* in the evening, and the latter the reverse. Hence arose the distinction,

“ Seiriol wyn, a Chybi felyn.”

Seiriol the fair, and Cybi the tawny.

old square tower, supposed to have been a portion of a religious house, a subordinate cell to the priory of Penmon. Round this are strewn a quantity of rubbish and stones, with the vestiges of other buildings; while the numerous human bones discoverable, are strong proofs of its once reputed sanctity, and the superstitious wish of the people, to obtain the privilege of interment in a place, devoted to pilgrimage and prayer. A tradition relates, that when the Lavan sands formed a habitable part of Caernarvonshire, the people had a communication between this place, and the opposite shore, by means of a bridge; and they yet pretend to shew the vestiges of an old causeway, made as it is said, from hence to Penmon bach, near Conway; for the convenience of devotees in their pious visits to the shrine of St. Seiriol. Of the religious recluses, who selected this for the place of their retirement, Giraldus relates the following remarkable story. "There is a small island almost adjoining to Anglesea, which is inhabited by hermits, living by manual labour, and serving God. It is remarkable that when by the influence of human passions, any discord arises among them, all their provisions are devoured and infected by a species of small mice, with which the island abounds; but when the discord ceases, they are no longer molested.—This island is called in Welsh *Ynis Lenach*, or priest's island, because many bodies of saints are deposited there, and no woman is suffered to enter it*." Some dissension and division, seems to have taken place between the brethren of Penmon, and the Glannauch establishment, for Dugdale gives a recital of grants made to this priory, by Prince Llewelyn, and his brother David; and the confirmation of the same, by king Edward the first: by which it appears, the priory of Penmon with its appurtenances was granted and confirmed to the prior, and canons of this island*. Prince

Owen

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 106.

* "Inspeximus autem cartam quam Leivelinus Princeps de Aberfrau et Dominus Snowdon fecit Priori et Canonicis de Insula Glannauch in hæc verba. Noverit universitas vestra, nos pro salutē animæ nostræ, et antecessorum

Owen Gwynedd, the founder of this monastery, and those of Penmon, Holyhead, and Bangor, the cotemporary of king Arthur, lies buried here ; and from the reputed sanctity of the place, and the security afforded by the insulated situation, from the outrages of vindictive ferocity, numbers of the great chose this for the place of their interment : and, though no ornamental piles nor sepulchral trophies now remain, to enable the visitor of the cemetery to discriminate between royal and ignoble dust ; yet the mind, awake to meditation, will be wafted back to days of other times, and sympathetically say as it views the dilapidated walls, and scattered fragments around,

“ How many hearts have here grown cold,
 That sleep these mouldering tombs among ?
 How many beads have here been told ?
 How many matins here been sung ?
 On this rude stone, by time long broke
 Methinks I see some pilgrim kneel,
 Methinks I see the censer smoke,
 And faintly hear the solemn peal.
 But here no more soft music floats,
 No holy anthems chaunted now,
 All's hush'd, except the sea fowl's notes,
 Hoarse murmuring from yon craggy brow.”

This once celebrated spot is now deserted by man, and only inhabited by a few sheep and a numerous colony of rabbits. During the summer months, the place swarms with various birds of passage, peregrine falcons, cormorants, razor-bills, guillemots, oyster-catchers, stormy peterels, divers, terns, curlews, gulls, &c. but the whole island in the season seems animated with the *Alcæ Arcticæ*, *puffin auks*, or coultternebs. These birds frequent various parts of the coast of Great Britain and Ireland, but no where in greater numbers than this, where their flocks, for multitude may be compared to swarms of bees.

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“ Eye

sorum nostrorum dedisse et concecisse, et hac præsentī carta nostra confirmasse Priori et Canonicis de insula Glannauc, totam Abbadaeth de Penmon cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, &c.” *Monasticon*, Vol. II. p. 338.

“ Eye, Muse, the crowded isle—its cliffs how gay,
 While gazing strangers through its wonders stray,
 They view with terror’s eye the shelving steep,
 And daring man looks down upon the deep :
 The murmuring puffins to their shelter crowd
 The living surface—and the feathered cloud ;
 The ambient waters and the general scream,
 For novel nature seems to them a dream.”

LLOYD.

When the feathered hosts are disturbed by the firing of a gun, or any alarming noise, they suddenly rise in such numbers as to put on the appearance of a dense cloud ; at the same time filling the air with a loud and most dissonant mixture of harsh and disagreeable sounds. Indeed the notes of all sea birds are extremely inharmonious. “ We have often rested under the rocks, attentive to the various sounds above our heads, which mixed with the solemn roar of the waves swelling into, and retiring from, the vast caverns beneath, have produced a fine effect. The sharp voice of the sea-gulls, the frequent chatter of the guillemots, the loud note of the auks, the scream of the herons, together with the hoarse, deep, periodical croak of the cormorants, which serves as a bass to the rest ; has often furnished us with a concert, which, joined with the wild scenery that surrounded us, afforded, in a high degree, that species of pleasure, which arises from the novelty, and, we may say, gloomy grandeur of the entertainment.”

“ When we had arrived under the rock, observes Mr. Bingley, and had cast anchor, we fired a swivel gun, to try the effect of the report round the island, when such a scream of puffins, gulls, and other sea birds, was heard, as beyond all conception, astonished me. The immense multitudes that in a moment rose into the air, were unparalelled by any thing I had before seen. Here they flew in a thousand different directions, uttering as many harsh and discordant screams : some darted into the water, some scudded about on its surface, others were seen dipping into the deep, others rising out, and others again came flapping almost close to our heads : in short, the air, the
 sea,

sea, and the rocks seemed alive with their numbers, we landed, and I clambered up the rocks, and walked alone to the other side of the island, I had a sight that even surpassed the former. Upwards of fifty acres of land, were literally covered with puffins. I speak much within compass, when I declare that the number here must have been upwards of 50,000. I walked gently towards them, and found them either so tame or so stupid, as to suffer me to approach near enough to have knocked one or two of them down with a stick. In their habits and manners, these birds remind one very much of the Penguins of the tropical climates. Their legs are placed so far back, that they stand with their heads nearly upright. They are about a foot in length. Their bill forms a triangle, about an inch and quarter long, and somewhat more than that in depth at the base: it ends in a somewhat curved point, is of an orange red colour; but near the base it is lead-coloured, and the base itself is formed by a yellowish ridge. When the birds are three years old, or full grown, the bill has four oblique transverse furrows. The upper parts of the plumage, and a collar round the neck, are blackish. The cheeks and chin are of a greyish white, and the belly is perfectly white. The tail is short; the legs are orange. The wings are somewhat short, and so narrow, as to require a very brisk and rapid motion to keep the birds suspended. They have some difficulty in rising from the ground, in consequence of which they generally alight in such places where they can either run down the slope of a hill, or throw themselves from the rocks. In one or two instances, I laughed to see them tumble over, when running to take flight, by their bills catching in little eminences that they were not aware of.---Puffins are birds of passage, and resort to this island, and to some other parts of the Welsh coast to breed. They arrive in the beginning of April, and remain till about the eleventh of August. On their arrival they immediately take possession of the burrows in the crevices of the rocks, or on the sloping ground of the island; and those that come last, if they find all the holes occupied, form for themselves new ones.

It is said that the males take this employment, and that during the time, they are so intent on the work as easily to be seized with the hand. They have nearly expelled the rabbits, by seizing on their burrows, for few rabbits are able to resist the strength of their beaks. They put together usually a few sticks and grass, and on this the female lays a single white egg, which is generally hatched in the beginning of July, the males and females are said to sit alternately, relieving each other at intervals for the purpose of procuring food. Both during incubation, and while attending on their young, they may without much difficulty be seized in their holes; but it is necessary to be somewhat careful in trusting the naked hand near their beaks, for they have the power of inflicting a most severe bite. With a glove on I amused myself by taking out several of them, in order to observe the truth of Mr. Pennant's assertion, that from their extreme affection for their young, when "laid hold of by the wings, they will give themselves the most cruel bites on any part of their body that they can reach, as if actuated by despair; and when released, instead of flying away, they will often hurry again into their burrows." They bit me with great violence, but none of them seized any parts of their own body: a few of them, on being released, ran into the burrows, but not always into those from whence I had taken them, if it was more easy for them to escape into a hole, than to raise themselves into the air, they did so; but if not, they ran down the slope, and flew away. The noise they make, when along with their young, is a singular kind of humming, much resembling that produced by the large wheels, used for spinning worsted. When I first went amongst their burrows, I heard this noise on every side of me, and could not conceive from whence it proceeded, till the sound of my footsteps frightened many of the birds out of their holes, and it was immediately explained. On being seized, they emitted the noise with greater violence, and from its being interrupted, by their struggling to escape, it sounded not much unlike the efforts of a dumb man to speak. In getting the birds out of the holes, I

found it necessary to lay down on the ground, and extend my arm into them; and it was only in a few holes that I found the birds within reach. During incubation, they are not easily driven from their nests; but when the young are hatched, they do not seem to exhibit towards them, as has been said, any extreme attachment, for whenever they are disturbed, they will either run into a deeper hole, or attempt to fly away. When caught, they will seize on any thing that is near them. The man who was along with me, shot a few of them: one of these had only its wing broken, and when he had set it down in the small boat belonging to the cutter, it hurried to the other end, and bit with great violence several of the dead ones that were laid there.---The young are entirely covered with a long blackish down, and in shape are altogether so different from the parent birds; that no one could, at first sight, suppose them the same species. The bill in these is long, pointed, and black, with scarcely the marks of furrows. Puffins do not breed, till they are three years old; and they are said to change their bills annually. Their usual food is sprats and sea weeds, which render the flesh of the old birds excessively rank. The young, however, are pickled for sale by the renters of the island*, and form an article of traffic, peculiar to this neighbourhood. The oil is extracted from them by a peculiar process, and the bones are taken out, after which the skin is closed round the flesh, and they are immersed in vinegar impregnated with spices. Dr. Caius informs us, that in his days, the puffins were allowed by the church to be eaten in Lent, instead of fish; and says that they were usually caught by means of ferrets, as we now sometimes take rabbits. At present, they are either dug out of

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* The island is the property of Lord Bulkeley, who lets it to a company of poor persons for fifteen pounds per annum. These make the rent, and a small profit by depasturing a few sheep, and taking rabbits and puffins. The latter are sold at one shilling per dozen to persons, who cure them by pickling, and when packed in small barrels, each containing twelve birds, are sold at four to five shillings per barrel. E.

the burrows, seized by the hand, or drawn out by a hooked stick*.”

The emigration of these Birds takes place early in autumn. About the middle and latter end of August, the whole tribe is seen assembling to take leave of their summer residence. It sometimes occurs that numbers owing to the delay, occasioned by the loss of their first laid eggs, have their young in a backward state, and so punctual are the parent birds to the season or appointed time for departure, that if the former are not fledged, they are left behind to shift for themselves. On this occasion commences the harvest of the Peregrine falcon, who keeps regular guard at the hole of the late-hatched puffins, till the latter, pressed by hunger, are necessitated to come out in quest of food, when they fall an easy prey to their wary assailant.

The winter residence of this genus, and that of the guillemot, is but imperfectly known: it is probable they live at sea, in some more temperate climate, remote from land; forming those multitudes of birds, mariners observe in many parts of the ocean: they are always found there at certain seasons, retiring only at breeding time: repairing to the northern latitudes; and during that period are found as near the pole as ever navigators have penetrated.

During winter, razor-bills and puffins frequent the coast of Andalusia, but do not breed there.

The south west end of the island is almost covered with the *smyrnium olusatrum*, Alexanders, which when boiled, affords a salutary repast for sailors, who are just arrived from long voyages. The cliffs also abound with the *crithmum maritimum*, samphire, procuring which, and the sea fowl eggs, forms a very hazardous employment.

On the eastern side of the island, between it, and point Traeth Telafen, is what is termed the *east* passage, which at low water is little more than a quarter of a mile broad, and naviga-
ble

* Bingley's North Wales, p. 350.

ble only for small vessels. The western channel, denominated the *Sound*, between Priestholm and the main land is very deep, and forms the common passage for ships, to and from the road of Beaumaris. Here are found those rare species of mussel, the *Mytilus incurvatus*, *M. pellucidus*, and a new one discovered by Mr. Hugh Davies, who, from its inflected hinge, gave it the trivial name of *M. umbilicatus*. In this channel, the Anglesea fishermen dredge for oysters, numerous beds of a very large fine sort lying on this part of the coast, well known among epicures by the name of *Penmon* oysters. Quantities of these are annually pickled, packed in small neat casks, and sent to different parts of the kingdom. This channel has also produced several new uncommon species of fish, viz. *Squalus Beaumaris*, Beaumaris shark; *Leptocephalus Morrisii*, or Anglesea Morris, *Blennius trifurcatus*, Forked hake*. This fish, supposed to be the same with the *Blennius Phycis* of Linnæus, has been the subject of warm discussion between two eminent naturalists, whose animadversions, replies, and rejoinders have been published in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1809: Mr. Donovan denying it to be a new species, upon the stated authority of Mr. Davies's oral communication; while Mr. Davies on the other hand, strenuously contends for the specific difference. In a letter printed in the appendix to the late octavo edition of Mr. Pennant's Tour in Wales, dated Nov. 10, 1809, as an answer to some doubts, expressed respecting the Morris fish, Mr. Davies observes, "Here then I beg leave to add, that I know the fish well; it has been my lot to see four specimens of it: one was taken in Llienawg wear, about three miles distant from Beaumaris; the other three below Beaumaris green, to the N. E. in the amusement of prawning on the recess of tide, in shallow water, among some bushy sea weed, *fucus serratus*.—At the time that these as well as the few specimens, for I have seen more than one, of the *trifurcated* hake, fell into my hands, my acquaintance with authors in natural history, both, living and

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dead

* Pennant's Brit. Zool. Vol. III. p. 118, 156, 193.

dead, was much more confined than it has since happened to be ; I, therefore, did not know but these fish might have been common in Britain, otherwise they had all been certainly preserved, to prevent future doubts about them."

The question seems to have received little elucidation from the altercation, having been left in more than a sea-weed maze, and the observant reader can only lament, for the cause of literature, that discussions of such a nature were not conducted with more moderation.

Penmon Park, originally belonging to the monastery, but now the property of lord Bulkeley, surrounded by a very lofty stone wall, is stocked with red deer, and highly prolific in rabbits. On the northern side is a high limestone ridge, affording a fine view of the Irish sea, and from it is visible, in clear weather, the Isle of Man. At a small distance to the south of the ridge, in the centre of the park, stands a very ancient curious British cross, consisting of an oblong square upright shaft, six feet in height, two sides of which are wider than the two others. These are ornamented with endless circumgyrations and interlacings in relievo, similar to the crosses near Llantwit Major in Glamorganshire. On one of the broad sides is a mutilated figure of some saint, and the remains of characters, which are illegible. The pedestal, an oblong quadrangular flat stone, is ornamented in the same manner with the shaft. The head of the cross lies down by the side, and was affixed to the shaft by means of a tenon and mortise. It is nearly of a lozenge shape, and has on each face, in relievo, a cross pattee. This precious morceau of antiquity, which has probably occupied this spot from the time the adjacent religious structure was built, the noble proprietor of the park has signified an intention of removing to his grounds at Baron-hill. What a subject of regret is it, such a false taste should be so prevalent, that induces persons of fortune and power to remove ancient monuments from the sites on which they were originally placed : sites, connected with the circumstances attendant on their erection ;

erection; and from which, in addition to their venerability, they derive much of their interest, as objects of investigation.

Near LLANDONNA* is a precipitous isolated hill, called *Bwrdd Arthur*, or Arthur's round table†, on which are the vestiges of the ancient fortification, denominated *Din*, or *Dinas Sylwy*, or the exploratory fort. It is encompassed by a deep foss, between two lofty valla, formed of rude stones, and in the area are the foundations of oval buildings, the temporary habitations of the occupants of the fortress. This must have been almost an impregnable strong hold, for besides the artificial defence, the natural situation presents a formidable obstacle to an invading enemy; the hill sloping steeply on all sides, and the acclivity increasing as you approach the ramparts. It was well situated, as an advanced post, to watch the movements of the northern invaders, which anciently infested the island. In a deep gully, leading from Llanddona church to the sea, near the shore are two round mounts, which Mr. Pennant conjectured were the work of the Danes, cast up for the protection of their vessels, which, on their plundering excursions, came often into the Red-wharf bay. In the vicinity of *Din Sylwy* is what has been considered the British *Tarpeian* rock, denominated *Nant y dienydd*, the cliff or rather chasm of destruction; a name probably suggested by its very precipitous position.

Near this place is a church called LLANFIHANGEL DIN SYL-

* This Saint Dona, to whom the church is reputedly dedicated, was the son of Selyv ab Cynan Garwyn, who lived in the beginning of the eighth century. Owen's Camb. Biog.

† It will be gratifying to persons, not fond of antiquarian research, to ascend this eminence for the sake of the prospect, which consists, according to Mr. Pennant, of "an intermixture of sea, rock, and alps most savagely great." The Menai, seemingly encircled by the two shores, assumes the appearance of a magnificent lake, with the town of Beaumaris on its margin; while on the right, the eye is gratified by the unbroken undulations of Anglesea; on the left, by Snowden and his lofty associates; and the reverse of the sublime picture is filled up with the view of the ocean, terminated by the horizon.

wy; and about two miles further that of LLANJESTYN*, celebrated for containing a tomb of curious workmanship, and generally supposed to be that of its tutelar saint; but, from the cut of the letters on the scroll, some antiquarians have conjectured it must have been done, long subsequent to the death of Jestyn: indeed, from the inscription itself, the work appears to have been a votive offering. On the tomb is the portraiture of a man, depicted with his head covered with a cowl, a beard subjected to the round tonsure, with whiskers on the upper and under lip. Round his cassock is a sash and cord†, over which is a long cloak, fastened by a broche: in one hand is a staff with the head of some beast on the top; and in the other a scroll bearing this inscription, formed of rude-shaped letters. “Hic jacet sanctus Yestinus cui Gwenllian filia Madoc et Gryffit ap Gwillyn optulit in oblacaem istam imaginem p. salute animarum.” The inscription is thus given by Mr. Pennant, as copied by a late votary to antiquarian research, the Hon. Daines Barrington. With this, the autograph, engraved in the *Mona Antiqua*, nearly corresponds. Yet Mr. Owen‡, the editor of the second edition of that work, observes, in a note upon the passage, “This inscription is a mere fiction; neither the letters on the plate, nor the words here read, being to be found on the stone at Llanjestin; though it is plain by the words Gryffit ap Gwilym & animarum s. the same stone is meant. The tomb stone at Llanjestin is a curious piece of workmanship. It is the effigy of a man in a sacerdotal habit, whence we may con-

* This was a saint, who lived towards the close of the sixth century, the son of Geraint ab Erbin, a worthy knight of Arthur's Round Table, slain by the Saxons at the siege of London. This Geraint, grandson of Constantine, duke of Cornwall, was admiral of the British fleet, during the reign of Owen Gwynedd, king of North Wales; and occasionally harbouring in the island, is said to have built the church of Pentraeth, called, after its founder, *Llanfair Bettws Geraint*. Rowland's *Mona Antiqua*. p. 155.

† By these insignia the pious Gwenllian supposed Jestyn was a Franciscan, a piece of anachronism not unusual in early times.

‡ P. 155.

clude, that it is the tomb of some abbot. The true inscription is inserted under the false. On the edge of the stone, above the head of the effigy, in large letters, HIC JACET GRYFFUT AP. GWILEM. Then on a circular label on your left hand of the head, ANIMARUM S.—Then on a circular label on the other side—NEM: P: SANLUTE. On another label S C B¹ JE.IUM. And some broken letters on the crook.” After an investigation of the matter, from the inscription being now less legible, the writer of this is reluctantly necessitated to say, “Non nostrum inter vos tantas componere lites.” The curious painting of St. Catherine, to whom the church was dedicated, is now in a very mutilated condition.

Traeth coch, or Red wharf, at the distance of two miles, a large bay running into the land, where it receives the waters of the small river *Torryd*, is covered with firm sands passable at low water. Those on the western side, intermixed with a large portion of small shells, are highly serviceable as a manure, and are carried to all parts of the island, within a convenient distance, for agricultural purposes. The western horn of the bay forms a small cape, or promontory, called *Castell-in-arwr*, flat at top, and joined to the land by a low isthmus. This and the adjacent cliffs are composed of calcareous strata; and numerous small vessels frequenting the coast for carrying limestone to different parts of Wales, enliven this otherwise dreary portion of the island. They lie in a small narrow channel, near the rocks, and a better accommodation lately made for taking on board their cargoes, is now denominated *New Quay*.

PENTRAETH, pleasantly situated, as its name imports, at the head of the sands, has its small church so surrounded by ash and sycamore trees, as apparently to be shut out from the observation of the world, and the highly picturesque appearance, contrasted with the dreary aspect of the sands, induced the late Mr. Grose to honour it with an engraving in his *Antiquities of Great Britain*. The *Pantons* have in this church their place of interment. About half a mile distant is PLAS GWYN, the seat

of *Paul Panton*, Esq. which came into possession of this family by the marriage of the late Paul Panton, father of the present possessor, with Jane, daughter of William Jones, Esq. of Pen-traeth. The present mansion, though a good structure, cannot "be reckoned among the best of the island." It, however, contains in its well-selected library, an invaluable treasure of Welsh manuscripts and other valuable documents, relative to the affairs of Britain. And those who, like the editor, have experienced the communicative disposition of this family, and the liberal treatment shewn by them to the inquisitive traveller, will cordially subscribe to the warm, but just encomiums of Mr. Lloyd, "To the lovers of British literature, the name of *Panton* will always be dear; to this family they are particularly indebted; and the opportunity of acknowledging it will be always gratifying." In a field, near the porter's lodge, stand two upright stones, about fifty feet from each other, of which a story is handed down by tradition, that *Er-nion ap Gwalchmai**, centuries ago, obtained his wife, *Angharad*, by his uncommon agility, exhibited in leaping the distance between these two stones. Two competitors, nearly at the same time, started for the fair-one's hand, and their claims appearing nearly equal, she decided by their relative salient abilities. Affection so professedly bestowed, was not long likely to be stationary. *Eineon*, going to a distant part of the country, where he had occasion sometime to reside, on the morn of his return found his faithless *Angharad* married to another: upon which occasion he took up his harp, and accompanying it with Welsh metre, bitterly upbraided her for the dereliction. The two stones in question are probably the remains of a druidical triangular monument, another having been thrown down at a small distance.

Two miles from Plas Gwyn is PENMYNNYDD.

* An eminent poet, who flourished from A. D. 1170 to 1220, some of whose productions are inserted in the Welsh Archaology

In the church is a very magnificent monument of white alabaster, removed at the dissolution of Llantfaes priory to this site ; and from that having been the place of interment for the Tudors, it was probably erected in memory of one belonging to that distinguished family. It is an altar-tomb, on which are two recumbent figures, the one of a man in complete armour, with a conical helmet on his head ; the other of a woman, dressed in the costume of the times, and her head covered with a cornered hood. Angels are represented as supporting both, and their feet rest upon couchant lions.

Penmynydd will ever be notable upon the historic tablet, as having been the residence of the *Tudyr*, or *Tudor* family, and the birth-place of the celebrated Owain ap Meredydd ab Tudyr, commonly called OWEN TUDOR. His grandfather *Tudor ap Gronw* was a favourite of Edward the Third, displayed great valour in his wars, and received from that monarch the order of knighthood. His fourth son Meredyth, however, was in a less exalted station, that of *Scutifer* to the bishop of Bangor. Having in a rencontre committed murder, he fled his country, and lived in exile ; during which time his wife was delivered of *Owen*, the subject of this biographical sketch. He was born about the year 1385, and after a scholastic education he went to London, and studied the law ; but not liking the profession he travelled abroad. After visiting several countries he returned to the metropolis, and got admission to the English court ; but by what means he obtained that favour, does not appear ; probably by military services, in those times the usual road to honours and preferments. Soon after the death of king Henry the Fifth, his widow Catherine of France was enamoured with Owen, and the dowager queen became a subject's wife. His introduction was rather singular. Being an active gentleman, * comely in person, and courtley
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* The family of Tudor were all portly men, but a knowledge of the world had given Owen a discriminating advantage. It was natural for the queen

in his behaviour, he was once commanded to dance before the queen; but in footing it down he slipped, and, unable to recover himself, fell into her lap, as she sate on a stool with the maids of honour around her, admiring his agility. "Who beyng," as honest Halle informs us, "young and lustye, following more her own appetyte than frendely consaills, and regarding more her private affection then her open honour, toke to husband privily (in 1428) a goodly gentylman, and a beautiful person, garniged with manye godlye gyftes, both of nature and of grace, called Owen Teuther, a mâ brought furth and come of the noble lynage and ancient lyne of Cadwaladar, the last kyng of the Britonnes.*" They lived together till her death, which happened in the year 1437, after she had brought him three sons and one daughter. On the death of their mother, Edmund and Jasper were most respectably placed under the care of Catherine de la Pole, abbess of Berking, daughter of Michael de la Pole, earl of Suffolk†. Afterwards they were both ennobled by Henry the Sixth. Edmund was made earl of Richmond, and married the lady Margaret, only daughter of John Beaufort, duke of Somerset, by whom he had one son, Henry, earl of Richmond, afterwards king Henry the Seventh of England. Jasper was created earl of Pembroke; Owen took to a monastic life, and the daughter died in infancy‡. The suddenness of Catherine's second marriage

to be desirous of seeing the kindred of the man, on whom she had bestowed her person: and the sarcasms, which were thrown out at court respecting the meanness of her husband's family and connections, increased that desire. At her request Owen presented his cousins, John ap Meredydd and Howel ap Llewelyn, men of good stature, and personage, but exceedingly uncouth in manners; and when the queen, highly accomplished, spoke to them in several languages, and they were unable to answer, she observed "they were the goodliest dumb creatures that ever she saw." York's Royal Tribes of Wales.

* Halle's Chronicle, 41.

† Rymer's *Fœdera*, Vol. x. 328.

‡ Owen had one illegitimate son, named Dafydd, who after the accession

riage after the king's death, and the very inferior rank of her husband, gave great umbrage to her royal relations, and brought her character into general contempt. Yet, during her life, the union had been connived at, notwithstanding an *ex-post-facto* law had been enacted, subsequent to its celebration; prohibiting any person, under severe penalties, from marrying a queen dowager of England, without a special licence having been first obtained from the reigning monarch;* and Mr. Tudor met with no annoyance from his constructive infraction of it. But on the queen's demise, the respect the English ministers had shewn the unequally yoked couple, out of regard to the memory of the late king, entirely ceased. Owen was seized, and committed to Newgate, from which prison he escaped, by the friendly assistance of his servant and confessor. Being retaken, he was placed under the custody of the earl of Suffolk, constable of the castle of Wallingford; and, after some time, was recommitted to Newgate, and Stow says, also to the Tower. How long his second confinement lasted is not stated; he however escaped, or was probably liberated by the intercession of his sons, whose influence was then great with king Henry; who about that time was disturbed by the open claim of the duke of York to the succession; and who, therefore, deemed it adviseable to strengthen his aristocratic interest by all possible means. This release of Owen, and the honours conferred on his sons, so flattered the Welsh, that they were ever afterward induced faithfully to adhere to the house of Lancaster. Little occurs concerning this extraordinary character after his liberation, till the year 1460, when he received, by royal grant, the parks and their agistment in the lordship of Denbigh, and the wodewardship of the same, as expressed in the patent, "in regard of his good services."

sion of Henry the Seventh, received the honour of knighthood from that monarch; who also bestowed on him in marriage, the daughter and heiress of John Bohun, of Midhurst in Sussex, an accomplished lady, with a very ample inheritance. Dugdale's Baron. Vol. I. 187.

* Draker's Parliamentary History, Vol. II. 211.

In the following year, during the unhappy distractions, occasioned by the contentions of the two houses of York and Lancaster, he appears again valiantly fighting for the red rose, under the banners of his son Jasper, at the bloody battle fought near *Mortimer's cross*, in the county of Hereford. The earls, who led the army against the victorious duke of York, escaped, leaving three thousand of their men dead on the field of battle. But Sir Owen Tudor, with several other knights and gentlemen were taken and instantly beheaded, conformable with the barbarous custom, practised by both parties in that sanguinary contest.* The body of Sir Owen was carried to Hereford, and interred there, according to Leland, in the church of the Grey Friars.

PENRHOS LYGWY is notable, as the birth-place of the celebrated British antiquary, and eminent poet, LEWIS MORRIS. This extraordinary genius, like many others that Providence chuses to endow with peculiar powers, and to bestow on them discriminating marks of dignity, which heraldry, with all its arts of emblazonry, cannot more ennoble, was born in the year 1702. His parents appear to have ranked in that portion of society, known better by habits of industry, than exhibitions of wealth. In a letter addressed to the late Mr. Samuel Pegge, the subject of this biographical sketch, observes, "what little stock of knowledge I have attained to, was in a manner by dint of nature; my education, as to language, was not regular, and my masters were chiefly sycamore and ash trees, or at best a kind of wooden masters. What progress I made that way is much impaired, for want of practice and corresponding with men of letters. The English tongue is as much a foreign language to me as the French." His first introduction into life was an appointment in the customs, which he relinquished for a more lucrative one, as a collector of the salt duties. While in this situation, he was employed by the board of Admiralty to make an hydrographical survey of the

* See Halle's and Holinshead's Chronicles.

sea-coast of Wales, the first part of which admirable work was published in the year 1748. Subsequent to this time so ably had he acquitted himself in the execution of the difficult task, that he was engaged by the Treasury Board in several important trusts, viz. surveyor of the crown lands, collector of the customs at Aberdovey, or Aberdyvi, and superintendant of the royal mines in Wales. During these bustling occupations he contrived, by a prudent management of his affairs, to find time for study and writing. Much of this he devoted to music and poetry, which, as he derived no profit from its occupation, he described as being "robbed of". The latter part of his life appears to have been exercised in antiquarian researches, the fruits of which comprise common place collections from numerous rare and valuable manuscripts, elucidated by notes, together with additions to Dr. Davies's British Latin dictionary on the plan of Marenî. These he entitled "*Celtic Remains*, or the ancient Celtic Empire, described in the English tongue; being a biographical, critical, historical, etymological, chronological, and geographical, collection of Celtic materials, towards a British history in ancient times, in two parts." Though government had found him one of its most useful and faithful servants, yet from that corruption, which dislikes honesty, and is silently upbraided by the exertions of integrity; he fell into disfavour, and was removed from his most advantageous employments. In the same letter he says, "I am now in no public business, except superintendant of the king's mines, without a salary; and that falling out with some of our leading men, I have retired into a little villa of my own, where my garden, orchard, and farm, and some small mine-works, take a good part of my time, and a knowledge in physic and surgery, which brings me the visits of the poor; botany having been my favourite study, is now of use to *them*." His knowledge was almost universal. Natural history, mathematics, and mechanics, formed part of his elaborate studies; and his library, as well as being a receptacle of books, formed

also a depository for antiquities, fossils, and coins. His mind was open and candid, and his disposition as liberal as his learning was extensive. In his breast indigent genius ever found a cordial friend, and while the names of *Goronw, Owen and Evan Evans*, not to mention others, remain upon the records of literary fame, the mental dignity and beneficence of heart, displayed by Lewis Morris, will be handed down with admiration to posterity. The motto upon his tomb should have been :

“Fyth weled ei fath eilwaith.”

We ne'er shall see his like again.

He died at his residence of Penbryn in Cardiganshire, April 11, 1765, and left behind him about eighty volumes of manuscripts, written in Welsh, which are now deposited in the library, belonging to the Welsh charity school, situated in Gray's-inn-lane, London. He corresponded with some of the first antiquaries and critics of his time, and several of his epistles are published in the second volume of the *Cambrian register*. His poetical compositions were printed in the collection entitled, “*Diddanioch Teulaidd.*”

LLANGEFNI, a village situated in a beautiful vale, in the mail road to Holyhead, distant eight miles from Porthaethwy ferry, and eleven from Beaumaris, is one among many instances of the improving state of the island. A few years since this spot could only boast of one house, near the bridge over the river Cefni. It is now a decent well-built small town, having, besides the church, two meeting-houses for protestant dissenters, two good inns for the accommodation of travellers, shops of every description, and its weekly market is the best supplied and best attended of any in Anglesea. By the returns made to parliament, in 1801, the number of houses amounted to 97, and of inhabitants to 539. Since that time the place has increased in population. In this parish is *Tre-garnedd*, now only a farm-house, but once the noble residence of a most valiant
and

and distinguished chieftain, EDNYFED FYCHAN, or *Ednyved Vychan*, the able counsellor and minister of Llewelyn the great, in the thirteenth century. He was successful against a powerful English army, which invaded the frontier; and having slain with his own hand three of the principal leaders, according to the savage practice of the times, he brought their heads as a present to his royal master. The prince, as an honorary reward for his eminent services on that occasion, commanded that his arms, which previous to that event had been a Saracen's head erased, proper, wreathed, or, should be changed; and that, in future, he should bear gules, a chevron ermine between three Englishmen's heads couped. From this personage was descended, in a direct line, the famous Sir Owen Tudor, mentioned in the preceding pages, the ancestor of kings, Henry the Seventh and Eighth, Edward the Sixth, and every heir to the British throne since that period: besides in the collateral branches of heroes, not less distinguished in their respective stations. At this place was born the ill-fated SIR GRYFFYDD LLWYD, grandson of the above chieftain; he had been one of those, who had assented to acknowledge, as potentate, any person nominated by Edward the First, providing he were a native of Wales; and was the first who brought the intelligence to that monarch of his queen Eleanor having been delivered of a son in Caernarvon castle; who proved their future destined sovereign. On this occasion he received the honour of knighthood, and subsequently did homage for his estates to the young prince at Chester. But the yoke of submission did not sit easy; for afterwards, indignant at some offence offered him, and feeling resentment for the wrongs and oppressions of his duped and suffering countrymen, he meditated a revolt; and for that purpose, between the years 1316 and 1318, attempted, but without effect, to form an alliance with Edward Bruce, then king of Ireland. Though disappointed in the wished-for assistance, his lofty spirit would brook no controul. He had formed the plan of liberating his country from the slavery to

P 2

which,

which, by his signature, he unintentionally had contributed, and was determined to put it in execution. In the year 1322* he took up arms, and aided by the diversions, occasioned by two other insurrections under Madoc, and Owen Glyndwr, for some time over-ran the country with resistless impetuosity : but suffering a defeat by the English troops, he retreated into Anglesea to his house at Tregarnedd ; which he had strongly fortified with a foss and ramparts ; and garrisoned with his followers another strong hold, called *Inys Cefni*, situated about three quarters of a mile distant, in a morassy part of the Malltraeth sands : a spot that he contrived to insulate by bringing round it the waters of the river Cefni †. Here, however, after a desperate struggle he was taken prisoner, for some time confined in Rhyddlan castle, and at length executed.‡

Tregarnedd derives its appellation from an immense *Carnedd*, or piled heap of stones, surrounded by a circle of upright ones in an adjacent field. Beneath are numerous hollow passages, formed by flat flag stones, laid upon others placed edgewise. These Mr. Pennant supposes were intended as repositories for the dead. “ Not that bones, or urns are always discovered in them ; for the founders, like those of the pyramids in Egypt, appear often to be disappointed in their hopes of having their reliques lodged in these labored mausoleums.”§

TREGAIAN is noticed as the birth-place and residence of WILLIAM AP HOWEL AP JORWERTH, called the Welsh patriarch, who lived about the latter end of the sixteenth century, and died at the unusually advanced age of *one hundred and five*. This person was no less remarkable for his numerous issue, than
his

* Powell's Hist. of Wales, 383.

† The foss remains nearly perfect, and is about eight yards wide and four deep.

‡ Manuscript account of Anglesea, by the late Rev. Mr. Rowlands. This gentleman, the author of the *Mona Antiqua*, had begun a history of the island in Latin, but only lived to complete one cantref.

§ Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 53.

his longevity. He had successively three wives; the first of which brought him twenty-two children; the second ten; and the third four; and two concubines bore him seven; in the whole, forty-three. From this stock descended, during the life time of the sire, no less than three hundred people, eighty of whom lived in this neighbourhood. What is further a singular fact, in the year 1581, when his youngest son was only two years and a half old, his eldest was eighty-four; so that from the birth of the first to the last child, an interval elapsed of nearly *eighty-two years*. Between Tregaian and Llanerchymedd is *Maes Rhos Rhyfel*, where a most decisive battle was fought between the forces of Owen Gwynedd, prince of North Wales, and an invading army composed of Erse, Manks, and Normans. An event which, though not mentioned by Warrington in his detail of the Welsh affairs, during the reign of this magnanimous prince, who was justly entitled to the distinguishing appellation of his ancestor, "*insularum draco*;" redounded more to the glory of Cambrian prowess, than any thing which had occurred for two preceding centuries. Owen succeeded his father in the sovereignty of North Wales in the year 1137, and during a long reign of thirty-two years successfully laboured to effect an union among the Welsh chieftains, with the view of inciting them to resist the incessant endeavours of the English government to subjugate their country. In repulsing the various attempts made by Henry the Second for the purpose, he acquired considerable glory; and in none more than on this occasion, for here both the naval and military power of the principality were engaged. To this transaction the poet Gray beautifully alludes in the following fragment:—

“ Owen’s praise demands my song,
Owen swift, and Owen strong;
Fairest flower of Roderic’s stem,
Gwyneth’s shield and Britain’s gem.
He nor heaps his brooded stores,
Nor on all profusely pours;

Lord of every regal art,
 Liberal hand, and open heart.
 Big with hosts of mighty name,
 Squadrons three against him came
 This the force of Eirin hiding ;
 Side by side as proudly riding,
 On her shadow long and gay
 Lochlin plows the wat'ry way ;
 There the Norman sails afar
 Catch the winds, and join the war
 Black and huge along they sweep
 Burthens of the angry deep.
 Dauntless on his native sands
 The dragon-son of Mona stands ;
 In glittering arms and glory drest,
 High he rears his ruby crest.
 There the thund'ring strokes begin,
 There the press, and there the din ;
 Talymalfra's rocky shore
 Echoing to the battle's roar.
 Where his glowing eye-balls turn,
 Thousand banners round him burn ;
 Where he points his purple spear,
 Hasty, hasty rout is there ;
 Marking with indignant eye
 Fear to stop, and shame to fly.
 There confusion, terror's child ;
 Conflict fierce, and ruin wild :
 Agony that pants for breath ;
 Despair, and honourable death."

To the east of this common, called from the engagement *Maes y Rhos Rhyfel*, is *Castell*, where Roman coins of several emperors have been found, but no vestiges discovered of any station. Indeed the Romans appear not to have been in possession of the island a sufficient length of time, to have erected any permanent establishments.

The coast between Traeth Coch, and Moelfra point produces several kinds of excellent marble, equal to what is brought from
foreign

foreign countries. These consist of black, grey, and mottled brown. The first kind, when taken out of the quarry is of a pale slate colour; if exposed long to the atmosphere, turns to a dingy white; but when polished is of a fine jet colour, and exhibits a very brilliant face. The third, recently discovered, is richly variegated with different shades of brown; takes a high polish, and from the endless diversity of the shades, displays an unique appearance. These marbles are manufactured into sepulchral monuments, and various ornaments for architectural decoration. Though out of these marble rocks, no urn has yet been found to perpetuate the memory of one

Who in the playful days of youth
Oft careless strayed amidst these wilds,

yet the lover of intellect, and the admirer of genius will be induced to visit LLANFAIR MATHAFERN EITHAF, to venerate the place, which gave birth to as brilliant a star, as for centuries appeared in the Cambrian hemisphere. GORONW OWEN, a man inferior probably in talents to none, that Wales has ever produced, was born in humble life in the year 1722. His father was a husbandman, who, like many of the Welsh peasantry, rented a little land, which he cultivated for the supply of his family; and having but scanty means, and unacquainted with the value of learning, was totally unmindful of bestowing any education on his children. Goronw, however, was endued with a mind, that must be informed, a spirit of inquiry no power could resist, and an ardour of research which defied all obstacles to extinguish. He went to school at first by stealth, through the influence of his mother continued there; and at an early period exhibited such uncommon abilities, and evinced so close an application to books, that at the age of fifteen he became qualified for an assistant in a grammar-school at Pwllheli. From thence, by the munificence of Mr. Lewis Morris, he removed to Oxford, and received an university education. After gradu-

ating there, he took holy orders, and was appointed by the bishop of Bangor his curate of Llanfair. Exalted to the priesthood, his wishes gratified, by the opportunity afforded him for literary pursuits, and stationed at his native place, happiness might be supposed the portion of Goronw. But no! the cup was dashed from his lip; the bishop, to make way for one of his particular friends, removed him, and he was glad to obtain the curacy of Oswestry, in Shropshire; where marrying, and having two children, the paltry pittance of a curate's stipend, ill-adequate to the maintenance of a family, rendered his situation distressingly hard. It was still more so on his removal to Donnington, where he assisted in a school, and served an adjacent church for twenty-six pounds per annum. Devoting his talents and strength in this state of genteel wretchedness, he subsisted for five years; when he rather ameliorated his condition by accepting the curacy of Walton, in Cheshire. But an annual forty pounds in a country, where provisions were high, was a sum by no means commensurate with the wants of his family; and they were reduced to the greatest penury. This necessitous state induced him to remove to London, in quest of something, that might better his prospects. An application on his behalf to Lord Powys, by his friend Lewis Morris, proving unsuccessful, he was compelled to take the curacy of North-holt in Middlesex. Unable to gain a comfortable livelihood, in 1757, he presented an address to the Cymmrodorion Society, petitioning for some small assistance towards defraying the expence of a passage to the Transatlantic continent, where he had resolved to go, after having been worn out with the unavailing expectations of obtaining some small preferment in his native country. "Thus, as Mr. Owen sympathetically observes, was the fairest flower of British genius transplanted, to wither in the ungenial climes of America." He settled at Williamsburg in Virginia, was appointed minister of the church, and there probably died. The last that was heard of him was in the year 1767, when he sent over an elegy, which he had composed on hearing of his friend

friend and patron's death. The abilities of Goronw were great, and his acquirements extensive. To a perfect acquaintance with the Latin and Greek, he added a knowledge of the Oriental languages; he was also a good antiquarian, and a favourite child of Apollo. His Latin odes have been very generally admired for the purity of the language, and elegance of expression. But as a *Welsh* poet, he ranks superior to all since the time in which flourished *Dafydd ap Gwilym*; and his compositions that have been published are considered as perfect models of Cambrian poetry. These consist chiefly of moral and religious odes; and his best performances are "*Cywydd y Gem*," or a Search after Happiness: and "*Cywydd y Farn fawr*," or The Day of Judgment. The ideas in the latter are so sublime, and the poetic images so crowded and striking, as deservedly to class it with the productions of the most distinguished bards. Mr. Morris, in a letter to Mr. Vaughan of Nannau, says, "I have two or three of his poems, the best that ever were written in our language, and such as will endure so long as there is good sense, and good nature, and good learning in the world." His poetical works, with some prose treatises, were printed in a volume, now become very scarce, entitled, "*Diddanwch Teuluaid*."

In the church-yard is a modern *carnedd* composed of a rude heap of stones, five feet in height, twelve wide, and eighteen long. In the centre is the stump of an old tree; and near the south-end an immensely large yew-tree, nodding its own departure over the dead. Beneath the heap is a hollow cavern, the entrance guarded, according to the ancient Jewish, and British customs, by a large stone. This whimsical sepulchre was erected by a Mr. Wynne, and has long been the place of interment for the family.

LLANFIHANGEL TRE'R BARD received its distinctive appellation from having been anciently a Bardic settlement, or station of the Druids. On Bodafon hill is "the shapely *cromlech*," mentioned by Rowlands, as thrown down, and lying on its
three

three supporters in the lands of *Blochty*.”* The table-stone measures ten feet in length, by eight in breadth. Its common name among the natives is, *y maen Llwyd*. Not far distant, at a place called Barras, is a smaller one in ruins. Between these is another demolished cromlech, named *Carreg y Frân*; which was evidently a double one,† the two flat incumbent stones, with several massy supporters, lying prostrate in a disorderly manner one upon another. The larger table-stone measures nine feet each way, and the lesser six.

LLANERCHYMEDD

Is a considerable town, noted formerly for having the largest and most numerous attended market in Anglesea; but this within a few years past has been considerably diminished by the opening of one at Llangefni: which being a central situation, affords a more convenient spot for commercial transactions to the several parts of the island. The place enjoys no manufacturing trade, and the inhabitants are principally supported by the money, circulated among persons, who frequent the market, and the workmen at Paris mountain mines.

In this parish are the extensive woods of Llygwy, the property of lord Boston, a singular sight for Anglesea. Amid these, not far distant from the road, is a very large *cromlech*. The table stone of a rhomboidal shape, is very large, the longest diagonal measuring seventeen feet and a half, the lesser fifteen, and nearly four feet thick. It is incumbent on several supporting stones, at the height of two feet above the surface
of

* *Mona Antiqua*, p. 93,

† This, when standing, was very similar to the large double cromlech in the grounds at Plas Newydd, in the parish of Llanidan; where a large and small one stand contiguous to each other.

of the ground. From the prevalent custom of ascribing every thing stupendous to the age, when the ceremony of the round table was instituted, the Welsh call this monument *Arthur's quoit*. In these woods are also several Druidical circles, nearly contiguous to each other, comprising numerous upright stones.

LLANELIAN*. The church of this parish is by no means an inelegant structure, and what is almost unique for the island it has a *steeple*, consisting of a tower, surmounted by a spire†; so that it makes a considerable figure among the ecclesiastical buildings of this part of Wales. Adjoining is a small chapel, apparently more ancient than the church, measuring in the interior fifteen feet, by twelve. This denominated, *y Myfyr*, or the place of meditation, was probably the residence of the devout Eliau. Inclosed within the walls of this building were two polygonal closets. One still remaining in the east wall, is called St. Eliau's closet; and contains *Cyff Eliau*, or St. Eliau's chest. An aperture in the wall is supposed to have been used by the priests for receiving confessions, and returning oracular answers to persons, who came to make inquiries, relative to their future destinies. Such is the contaminating nature of error, and so powerful its sway, in the shape of superstition, that the Horatian maxim seems emphatically applicable to the mental economy of man.

“ Quo semel imbuta recens, servabit odorem
Testa diu.”

The saint had a widely extended popularity, and an immense concourse of devotees daily implored his assistance, to relieve them from their several infirmities. To obtain his salutiferous

* *Eliu Geimiad*, or *Gannaid*, was a saint, who lived about the close of the fifth century.

† Most of the churches in Anglesea, are destitute of this highly ornamental appendage; having simply at the west end, a small elevation, with an arched aperture, for the purpose of hanging one bell.

tiferous favour, they made various oblations, which were deposited in the chest. These continued to be offered long subsequent to the death of Elia; and in process of time, formed an accumulated fund, sufficient to purchase an estate, that served as a considerable augmentation to the revenues of the living. "People out of health, even to this day, send their offering to the saint, which they put through a hole into the box. A silver groat, though not a very common coin, is said to be a present peculiarly acceptable: and has been known to procure his intercession, when all other kinds have failed! The sum thus deposited, which in the course of the year frequently amounts to several pounds, the churchwardens annually divide among the poor of the parish*." *Wakes*, or the commemorative anniversaries of the patron saints, to whom the churches are reputedly dedicated, are celebrated through Wales with divers festivities, and form the principal amusements of the people. Those of Llanellian used formerly to continue for three weeks, professedly being held on the first three Fridays in the month of August; but are now confined to one, and the two or three succeeding days. They are crowdedly attended by people, from the adjacent country, and by many from distant parts of North Wales; most of whom bring some offering, as a palliative douceur for past offences, to deprecate impending evils, or to insure prosperity. Having deposited their gifts, some of these misguided devotees proceed to enquire as to their future good or ill fortune, in a singular and most ridiculous manner, by means of the wooden closet. Having entered by the small doorway, if they can succeed in turning round within the narrow limits of the place, about four feet high, four feet across the back part, and eighteen inches wide; they fondly fancy prosperity will attend them till the ensuing anniversary: but if they fail to accomplish this, which under certain circumstances is impossible, it is esteemed an omen either of disaster or death within

* Bingley's Tour in North Wales, Vol. I. p. 321.

within the year! Near this place was a *Llys*, or palace of the hero, recorded, in the Triades, with Rhiwallon, son of Urien and Belyn, Caswallon, who granted the following Charter.*

“ Good people hearken unto me, Kyswallon Law hir ap Einion Urdd, praying blessed Hyllarie to have sight unto me, and to my men of my household; they, as then prayed especially and devoutly, when I and my household men lost our sight; I was Lord upon the wrong to you; when I took your oxen and your milch cows; then I was in the wrong to myself; therefore I will give you for such oxen, ten oxen; then said Hyllarie, if I had mine own goods, I would desire no man’s goods; then said Kyswallon, ye shall have whatsoever ye will, and name it; and so did Kyswallon lift up his hand to uphold his promise, then Hyllarie made his prayer saying “ I beseech my Lord God for his infinite goodness, restore unto you your sight. Kyswallon had his sight as perfectly as ever he had before, and all his household men, and then Hyllarie asked his gift, not there, but as much lands and grounds as his hart winneth, in running upon all your greyhounds, and let them slip from the same footing, that is to say Dulas, his hill; from thence into the mountain of Yngen; from thence to Gorsedd Reigit, and through the Nanney’s Isle; to the hill of Trysclwn, and through Bod Bod nerrey; thence to the Harts Leap,; called in Welsh Llam y Carw; and thence he swam the sea to his Lord Hyllarie, to Perth ychen, to land, and then Kyswallon gave the landmen woodlands, waters and fields, within those means and bounds above named to Hyllarie, in whatsoever freedom, Liberty or Franchises he would, and then Hyllarie assigned Kadawr, and Frydall, to devise and choose their Franchises because

* The subjects of this prince were so distinguished, on account of binding themselves together with the fetters of their horses, to sustain the attack of *Serigi*, an Irish chieftain, whom Caswallon slew with his own hands, when he drove the Irish from Anglesea.

cause the land was theirs. And Kadawe Frydal choose to pay a penny to the chief lord, by way of attornement or seisine to keep the liberties and Franchises. And when, whosoever of this blood shall happen to dye, the heir shall goe to the court of the chiefe, and there pay a penny in the name of seisine or attornement, to suffer him to be free to God, and Hyllarie without bondage or thralldom upon him, free to him, and free to him to sell his lands to whomsoever him list or will, and he that buyeth the land to pay 12s. in fine, in two parts, 6s. to the chief Lord, and 6s. to Hyllarie, and a penny by way of seisine or attornement to the Lord's court, shewing him to be a free-man to God, and to Hyllarie. And he shall not swear within ten miles, but in his own commot, and his Lord's Leat, and not to swear there but for debt, and if he be cast 3d. of amercement to the Lord, and if he be not cast, to have 11d. of the court for amends, and free to him, to buy and to sell all manner of goods without impeachment, and the land and sanctuarie both to people and to cattle from the Lord's officers, and Hyllarie shall keep them from evil spirits. And Kyswallon taxeth upon them that break this franchise or graunt, or that disturbeth, troubleth, or offendeth any part thereof, or meddleth contrary to the said graunt upon Hyllaris lands, or his men, or any other taking the sanctuary, a fine of 40s. as often as he or they do offend against these said liberties. And if a man of Hyllaries be hurt or maimed, the same fine or amends, that is to say, the third part to Hyllarie, and to the Lord, and two parts to him that is so hurt or maimed. And whatsoever death take any of Hyllaries men; that the Lord have nothing to do with his goods, wife, nor no men, but only his kinsfolk have thereto authority, and if he be outlawed that these be not upon him, but 12d. of fine to be divided in two parts, (6d.) to the chief lord, and 6d. to Hyllarie, because he is is Hyllarie's man, and this liberty, and other Franchises I Kyswallon Lawhir do give to God, and Hyllarie, and my blessing with all, and my curse to him that it breaketh, and also I set Caldowr, and his issue

after to reer the Lord's part, because the land is not free to my men, and he himself not amerced. And if a man of Hyllarie be slayne, then is not to him, that slay him to be hanged, but if both parties be amerced, and Hyllarie gave his curse to gentels (gentlemen) that ridde upon his land with his foot in the stirrup, (stye-rope) (original) and that they slew a pig upon his land, and Kyswallon asked of Hyllarie, whether he would grant his men to come with him to the east, and he granted if Cadwr would so, that no compelling be upon them further than the means of their lands, but if they will of themselves; for why, he is an evil man that will not go in his Lord's need, God yield that sayd Kyswallon, I shall have horse and armour for him, for him that will, and armour for footmen that will have them upon my cost, and reward for his labour as much as he must. Then said Eingan the lord's brother, the libertie and franchises of Hyllaries men, is better than your men. That is no marvel said the Lord, for I give it my need, and not in his."

This is an old translation of the exemplification of the ancient charter, included in the letters patent, issued to the high chamberlain of North Wales, in the time of Edward the Fourth, on the petition of " Nicholas ab Elis, rector of the church, Sir Gwilym Gryffydd, Verec ap Meredydd ap Llewelyn Vychan, Tudur ap Llewelyn ap Hoell, Tudur ap Trehearn, Dafydd ap Eeigan ap Dafydd Gol: Eeineon ap Hoell ap Tudur, Dafydd ap Jorwerth, ap Dafydd, ap Gronow, ap Dafydd Gol, and several other free tenants holding of St. Elia. The confirming record, thus concludes. " Quam quidem schedulam, nos ex mera devotione et specialiter ob honorem Dei, ac illius Sancti Hillarii tenore presenti sub sigillo nostro Principatus North-Walliæ duximus exemplificandum. In cujus rei testimonium, has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentees, teste me ipso apud Caernarvon duodecimo die Decembris anno regni nostro quinto."

" Edwardus."

Caswallon

Caswallon Law-hir, or Caswallon the long-handed, granted these and several privileges and immunities to this church, among others that of *Nawddfa* or sanctuary, it having been for centuries a place of refuge for criminals. This was one of the seven churches in Anglesea, which were entitled to hold several of their estates, *in capite, of the patron saint*; and one of the conditions of the tenure was, the preservation of these fugitive asyla*. The exemplification above quoted, is part of a copy of a charter of lands, franchises and immunities, granted by Caswallon to St. Elian, and his successors: which has been confirmed to the tenants or free-holders of those lands, by some of the kings of England

The high table land of *Tryschwyn* will attract the traveller's notice from a part of it, forming the farfamed *Parys mountain*†. The aspect of the hill, rising into enormous rugged rocks of coarse aluminous shale, and whitish quartz, naturally assumes a very rude appearance; and the mineral operations have considerably added to the rugged grandeur of its exterior. Vegetation in the adjacent parts is entirely destroyed by the suffocating fumes, issuing from the burning heaps of copper, which extend their exterminating influence for miles around. Even the mosses and lichens have disappeared, and nothing in the vegetable kingdom is seen to withstand the baneful effluvia, but the *Melica cærulea*, purple Melic Grass, which here flourishes in abundance.

“ No grassy mantle hides these sable hills ;
No flow'ry chaplet crowns the trickling rills ;

Nor

* The others were the churches said to be dedicated to St. Beuno, St. Cybi, St. Cadwalader, St. Peirio, St. Mechell, and St. Cyngar. Rowland's *Mona Antiqua*, p. 133.

† Probably from a Robert Parys, chamberlain of North Wales, in the reign of Henry the Fourth.

Nor tufted moss nor leathe'y Lichen creeps
In russet tapestry o'er the crumbling steep."

DARWIN.

There can exist no doubt, but that copper was obtained from this mountain, at a very distant period. As the early Britons are said to have imported all articles, constructed of brass, the copper mine at this place was probably worked by the Romans. Their method of mining, as described by Pliny, where plenty of ore was found, consisted in forming deep trenches, through which they pursued the mineral veins. The use of gunpowder not having then been known, the rocks were intensely heated by large fires, and cracks, or fissures, formed in them by the sudden suffusion of water or vinegar. The wedge and pick-axe, the ancient *fractaria*, were then introduced into the apertures, and the stone and ore forced out. Vestiges of such operations appear in several parts of the hill, and a round cake of copper was found at Llanfaethlu, also a few miles distance, which weighed fifty pounds, stamped with a mark resembling, an L. In the year 1762, Alexander Frazier, who travelled over the kingdom in quest of Mines, visited Sir Nicholas Bayley; and gave him so flattering an account of his property at Paris mountain, respecting its mineral treasure, as induced him to sink shafts, and seek for ore: but the work was soon impeded by an inundation of water. Two years after a company from Macclesfield, were obliged by the conditions of a lease, they obtained of Penrhyn du mine, in Caernarvonshire, to carry on a drainage level, and make a fair trial of this concern. Ore was discovered, but the profits were more than counterbalanced by the expences, and an order was sent by the lessees to their agent, to cease from any further pursuit. Unwilling, however, to forego the prospect he had of eventually succeeding, as a final attempt, he divided his men into several companies, each consisting of three or four persons. These sunk shafts in different places, about eight hundred yards to the eastward of a place, called the Golden venture. This spot was selected from a presumption, that a spring strongly
Q impregnated

impregnated with copper, must issue from a body of that mineral. The conjecture was well-founded. Within a few days, at the depth of about seven feet only from the surface, they met with a solid vein of ore, which proved to be part of the immense mass, that has been ever since so advantageously worked*. Shortly after this discovery, another adventure was commenced by the Rev. Edward Hughes, who owned part of the mountainous ridge, in right of his wife Mary Lewis of Llys Dulas. This has proved equally successful. The bed of ore, is in some places more than sixty feet in thickness, and the proprietors, at one period, are said to have annually shipped twenty thousand tons. Thus by the perseverance of the possessors, a plat of ground, originally scarce of any value, has been converted into one of the most profitable estates in the kingdom. The ore has been supposed lately to be fast decreasing, but the discovery of a new vein in the Mona mine will tend to keep that portion of the property for years to come, in a prosperous state.

“ Having, “ says Mr. Bingley,” ascended to the top, I found myself standing on the verge of a vast and tremendous chasm. I stepped on one of the stages, suspended over the edge of the steep, and the prospect was dreadful. The number of caverns at different heights along the sides; the broken and irregular masses of rock, which every where presented themselves; the multitudes of men at work in different parts, and apparently in the most perilous situations; the motions of the whimsies, and the raising and lowering of the buckets, to draw out the ore and the rubbish; the noise of picking the ore from the rock, and of hammering the wadding, when it was about to be blasted; with, at intervals, the roar of the blasts in distant parts, of the mine, altogether excited the most sublime ideas, intermixed, however, with sensations of terror. I left this situation, and followed the road that leads into the mine; and the moment I entered,

* The anniversary of the day, March 2d 1768, has ever since been kept as a festival by the miners.

entered, my astonishment was again excited. The shagged arches, and overhanging rocks, which seemed to threaten annihilation to any one daring enough to approach them, fixed me almost motionless to the spot. The roofs of the work, having in many places fallen in, have left some of the rudest scenes that imagination can paint: these, with the sulphureous fumes, from the kilns in which the ore is roasted, rendered it to me a perfect counterpart to Virgil's entrance into Tartarus.

'Tis here in different paths the way divides,
 The right to Pluto's golden palace guides;
 The left to that unhappy region tends,
 Which to the depth of Tartarus descends;
 The seat of night profound, and punish'd friends.

To look up from hence, and observe, the people on the stages, a hundred and fifty feet above one's head; to see the immense number of ropes and buckets, most of them in motion; and to reflect, that a single stone casually thrown from above, or falling from a bucket, might in a moment destroy a fellow-creature, a man must have a strong mind, not to feel impressed with many unpleasant sensations. A few days before I was last here, a bucket caught against the point of a rock, emptied its contents on the head of a poor fellow, and killed him on the spot. The sides of this dreadful hollow are mostly perpendicular. Along the edges, and in general slung by ropes over the precipices, are the stages with windlasses, or whimsies, as they are here termed, from which the buckets are lowered; and from which those men descend, who work upon the sides. Here, suspended in mid air, the fellows pick, with their iron instrument, a small place for a footing, cut out the ore in vast masses, and tumble it with a thundering crash to the bottom. In these seemingly precarious situations they make caverns, in which they work for a certain time, till the rope is again lowered to take them up.*

Q 2

The

* Tour in North Wales, p. 209.

The substance of the mountain being ore, the work is carried on in a very different manner from the custom of other mines; here are comparatively few shafts or levels, the greater part being quarried out, so as to leave a vast excavation open to the day.

The Parys mountain copper vein, belonging to lord Uxbridge, is very extensive, and contains ore in what are termed by the workmen bellies. These bunches of ore are of different magnitudes, and commonly called *stock works*. The extent of the excavations is commensurate with the length and breadth, necessary to pursue the ramifications of the vein. This vein has been worked on a very large scale, upwards of seven hundred yards, exclusive of considerable workings to the east and west. This line includes the Parys and Mona mines, which are both in the same grand vein. From the boundary of the two mines, to the west-end of the Parys mine, is an open cast excavation, two hundred yards long, one hundred and fifty broad, and from twenty to forty deep, forming a content of nine hundred thousand cubic yards of ground removed. In this part of the mine are several *subterraneous* excavations, and a few trials to the westward. From the boundary of the two mines, to the east-end of the principal workings on the Mona mine, belonging to Mr. Hughes, is a length of vein that extends five hundred yards, containing three large open-cast excavations; out of which four hundred and sixty-eight thousand cubic yards of ground have been taken. Some of the subterraneous works in this part of the mine, are very grand. One excavation is fifty yards long, thirty wide, and from the base to the rugged crown of the arch, forty in height. The roof is supported by one umbilical pillar. Another part of the mine exhibits a similar excavation, forming an entire arch of forty yards in length, fifteen in width, and forty yards high. The under-ground workings are too numerous to particularize. The whole of them will amount to a vacuity of two hundred thousand yards cubical measurement, besides shafts, levels, &c. Some idea may be formed of the vast bodies of ore this part of the mine contained,

by

by the quantity raised by two bargains in three months, during the year 1787: in the first, two thousand nine hundred thirty-six tons of good copper ore, and two hundred sixty-seven tons of waste, besides the ore raised by sundry other smaller bargains. There is upwards of four hundred and sixty yards of ground in length in the east part of this, the Parys mine, which has been only partially worked; and in that space there are, in all probability, several bodies of ore undiscovered; but that can only be ascertained by future trials.* In addition to these grand excavations are several considerable shafts, sunk below the bottom or floor of the mine; one is in depth, one hundred and sixty feet, and the lowest part of the shaft is fifty fathoms deep.

“Every corner of these vast excavations resounds with the noise of pickaxes and hammers; the edges are lined with workmen drawing up the ore from below; and at short intervals is heard, from different quarters, the loud explosion of the gunpowder by which the rock is blasted, reverberated in pealing echoes from every side. The exterior covering of the mountain is an aluminous slate; the matrix black-grey chert; the ore, copper, chiefly

1st. The yellow sulphurated; of which the richest contains, according to miners computation, that is in the proportions of the oz. Troy—Sulphur, 5 dwt. (25 per cent.)—copper, ditto—refuse, 10 dwt. (50 per cent.) The worst ore yields nearly the same quantity of sulphur; but of metal no more than six grains ($1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.); this inferior kind, however, is chiefly worked for the sulphur. The other species and varieties of ore that the mine produces are—

2d. Black ore, containing copper, mixed with galena, calamine, and a little silver.

3d. Malachite, or green and blue carbonate of copper.

Q 3

5th.

* See an account, drawn up by Mr. Price, agent of the Mona mine, for the new octavo edition of Mr. Pennant's *Tour in Wales*, and published in the appendix to that work.

- 4th. Native copper, but in very small quantity.
- 5th. Sulphate of copper crystallized, and in solution.
- 6th. Sulphate of lead in considerable quantity, containing a pretty large proportion of silver.
- 7th. Native sulphur.

Process.—The ore is got from the mine by blasting; after which it is broken into smaller pieces by the hammer (this being chiefly done by women and children) and piled into a kiln, to which is attached by flues a long sulphur chamber. It is now covered close; a little fire is applied in different places, and the whole mass becomes gradually kindled; the sulphur sublimes to the top of the kiln, whence the flues convey it to the chamber appointed for its reception. This smouldering heat is kept up for six months, during which the sulphur chamber is cleared four times, at the expiration of which period the ore is sufficiently roasted. The poorest of this, that is, such as contains from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 per cent. of metal, is then conveyed to smelting houses at Amlwch-port; the rest is sent to the company's furnaces at Swansea and Stanley, near Liverpool. The greater part of the kilns are very long, about six feet high, and the sulphur chambers are of the same length and height, connected by three flues, and on the same level with the kilns; some new ones however have been built at Amlwch-port, by which much sulphur is preserved that would have been dissipated in the old kilns. The new ones are made like lime-kilns, with a contrivance to take out at the bottom the roasted ore, and thus keep up a perpetual fire; from the neck of the kiln branches off a single flue, which conveys the sulphur into a receiving chamber built on the rock, so as to be on a level with the neck of the kiln, *i. e.* above the ore. These kilns will hold from four to thirteen hundred tons of ore.

The two smelting-houses, of which one belongs to each company, contain thirty-one reverberatory furnaces, the chimneys of which are 41 feet high; they are charged every five hours with 12 cwt. of ore, which yields $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of rough copper, containing 50 per cent. of pure metal; the price of rough copper is

is about 2l. 18s. per cwt. The coals are procured from Swansea and Liverpool, a great part of which is Wigan slack. From experiment it appears, that though a ton of coals will reduce more ore, than the same quantity of slack, yet the latter is upon the whole preferable; the prices of the two at Liverpool being, coals 8s. 6d. per ton, slack 50 per ditto. The sulphate of copper however is the richest ore that the mine yields, containing about 50 per cent. of pure metal. This is found in solution at the bottom of the mine, whence it is pumped up into cisterns like tanners pits, about two feet deep; of these pits there are many ranges, each range communicating with a shallow pool of considerable extent; into these cisterns are put cast iron plates, and other damaged iron vessels, procured from Coalbrook-dale; when the sulphuric acid enters into combination with the iron, letting fall the copper in the form of a red sediment, very slightly oxidated. The cisterns are cleared once in a quarter of a year, when the sulphate of iron in solution is let off into the shallow pool, and the copper is taken to a kiln, well dried, and is then ready for exportation. The sulphate of iron remaining in the pool, partly decomposes by spontaneous evaporation, and lets fall a yellow ochre, which is dried and sent to Liverpool and London.”*

One ton of iron thus immersed, produces about two tons of copper mud, each of which, when smelted will average sixteen hundred weight of copper; but the precipitate depends much on the kind of iron that is used. If wrought iron is put into mineral water, and left undisturbed, that is, without cleaning to give it a fresh surface, till dissolved, the result will be nearly its own weight of pure copper; which, from the superior quality, sells at a much higher price in the market, than what is obtained from the smelted ore. This mode of precipitating copper from its solvent, by the decomposing power of another metal, is not a recent discovery. It was known more than a century ago to the workmen in the mines of Hungary, where it was termed ziment copper; and was long practised in the

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour, p. 134.

the Wicklow mines in Ireland,* anterior to the adoption of the process here. The workmen earn, on an average, eighteen pence a day. But some get the ore at a certain sum per ton. These are called *bargain-takers*, each of which will engage several men under him : and if the rock be easily penetrated, and the ore of good quality, these will earn from four to six shillings a day. After they have worked a given time their pile of ore is examined, by a picce being drawn out and an assay made of the *quality*, by smelting an ounce weight of it in a small crucible, and after being refined by a second process, the button of copper is weighed, the amount of the heaps ascertained, and the bargain-taker accordingly remunerated for his labour. The quantity of copper ore annually raised it is not easy to ascertain. The Parys mine has produced from five to ten thousand tons per quarter, besides about fifteen tons of precipitated copper; and the Mona mine nearly an equal quantity. But at present the quantity falls far short of this. From some cause of failure in the quantity or quality of the ore, little is done at the Parys mine; and the proprietor is causing the refuse ore to be fluxed, which a few years back was not considered worth the trouble and expence of smelting. Nor is the Mona mine worked with that spirit, nor to an equal extent, as when the late Mr. Williams was a copartner in the concern.

The number of men employed in the underground workings of the Mona mine, in the year 1806, were 227, the consumption of gunpowder 17,036 lb. and of candles 26,283 lb. In 1807,

* The discovery there is said to have been accidental; from the mines of Arklow, in the county of Wicklow, issues a stream, strongly impregnated with sulphate of Copper. In this, one of the workmen accidentally left an iron shovel, which, when he found some weeks after, was so incrustated with copper, as to induce him to suppose the metal had been *transmuted*. The proprietors profited by the incident. They had proper receptacles formed for the reception of the water and precipitation of the metal, and the stream became of equal importance with the mines.

1807, 237 were employed, the consumption of gunpowder was 15,345 lb. and of candles 23,321 lb. In 1808, 122 men were employed, and 6,300 lb. of gunpowder, and 9,200 lb. of candles were consumed, and subsequent to these periods the energy in working has considerably relaxed,

The sulphur produced by roasting the poorer kind of ores, after being melted and refined, is cast into rolls and sent to London. The cones are chiefly used for manufacturing gunpowder and sulphuric acid. For some time a manufactory of *green* and *blue vitriol* was carried on, but the concern, not having been found to answer, has been some time abandoned. An *alum* work is conducted here upon a very singular and admirable plan. The argillaceous earth, forming the base of this neutral salt, is found near the spot, in a stratum about six feet beneath the surface of the ground. This earth is laid over the heaps of ore in a state of roasting, from which it becomes impregnated with the sulphuric acid gas, disengaged by heat from the copper; and when sufficiently saturated the composition is placed in shallow pits, filled with water, where it is stirred about till the specific gravity of the solution exceeds that of common water one-twelfth. Then it is conveyed in troughs to a range of leaden pans, where by a gentle heat a certain portion is evaporated, and the remainder drawn off into refrigeratories or coolers, to crystallize; and after being refined by a second crystallization, it becomes a merchantable article.

The mountain also produces an ore of *zinc*, which in a similar manner is exposed to the roasting kilns, and becomes amalgamated with the sulphuric particles. It is then dissolved in water, and after the process of evaporation and crystallization, it is sent off to the London market. "Nature," Mr. Penant observes, "hath been profuse in bestowing her mineral favours on this spot; for above the copper ore, and not more than three quarters of a yard beneath the common soil, is a bed of yellowish greasy clay, from one to four yards thick, containing

containing *lead ore*,* and yielding from six hundred to a thousand pounds weight of lead from one ton; and one of the metal yields not less than fifty-seven ounces of silver. Mixed with the earth are frequently certain parts, of the colour of cinnabar: whether these are symptomatic of the sulphurous arsenical silver ores, or of quick-silver, I will not pretend to decide. Something interferes with the successful smelting of this earth in the great: insomuch that it has not yet been of that profit to the adventurers, which might reasonably be expected from the crucible assays of it; and they have at this time about eight thousand tons on bank undisposed of†. Since the defalcation in the copper concern, more attention has been paid to this species of mineral treasure, and smelting works have been erected on a large scale; but, from the very high price of coals, and the decreasing demand for lead, this work is at present on the decline.”

AMLWCH, a village, or rather hamlet, formerly consisting of six houses, occupied by fishermen, has, by the labour, requisite at these works so increased, as to become the size of a large town; and for the demands of the inhabitants has a well supplied weekly market. By the returns made to government in 1801, the number of houses was 1025, and the population amounted to 4977; of which the number of 1581 were reported to be employed in trade and manufacture. The town is said to derive its name from a lake in the vicinity, which has lately been drained, and is now in a state of cultivation. But *loch*, or *lwch*, is not the Welsh name for a lake. *Llwch* is 'a sandy beach, and *am* about, which forms *Amlhwch*, exactly descriptive of the site of the place in its pristine state. The church
dedicated

* Researches for lead ore have been made at this place at a remote period. In the bottom of the lake, near Parys mountain, was found an ancient smelting hearth, formed of gritstone, and several pieces of smelted lead, about four inch longs, two broad, and half one thick.

† Tour in Wales, Vol, III. p. 66.

dedicated to *St. Eleuth* *, a saint of the British calendar, is a neat structure, exclusive of this, the town affords nothing remarkable for the inquisitive traveller. The port is a large chasm between two lofty rocks, running far into land, and dry at low water, into which small vessels strand to take in their lading. The breadth only permits two vessels to ride abreast; yet is sufficient in length and depth to receive thirty sloops and brigs, from fifty to two hundred tons burthen. This natural creek has been much improved by art, at the expence of the copper companies, for the convenience of their own shipping; and though a small port, is well adapted for the business of exportation: but has the disadvantage of being too much exposed to the swell of the ocean, and is difficult and dangerous of access during the prevalence of high northerly winds, which drive in a heavy sea up the neck of the harbour.

Since Mr. Arthur Aikin's visit to this place, its appearance, and the circumstances of the people, have experienced a melancholy alteration. Poverty was then the general lot of its inhabitants, yet that was in some measure supported by labour, and sweetened by its remuneration. But the failure in the mines, and the present inactivity of the proprietors, have cast a paralyzing damp upon this once flourishing place; and changed that enviable state, so pleasingly described in this author's interesting tour, when during the time of relaxation.

“ Mean time the song went round, and dance and sport,
Wisdom and friendly talk successive stole
Their hours away : while in the rosy vale
Love breath'd his infant sighs, from anguish free,
And full replete with bliss, save the sweet pain,
That inly thrilling, but exalts it more.”

THOMSON.

“ These were thy charms sweet, village ! sports like these
With sweet succession taught e'en toil to please ;
These round thy bowers their cheerful influence shed,
These were thy charms—But all these charms are fled !—

* A royal bard and saint, who flourished from about the year 640 to 700. One of his poetical compositions is inserted in the *Myvyrian Archaiology*.

Those gentle hours that plenty bade to bloom,
 Those calm desires that ask'd but little room,
 Those healthful sports that grac'd the peaceful scene
 Liv'd in each look and brightened all the green ;
 These, far departing, seek a kinder shore
 And rural mirth and manners are no more."

GOLDSMITH."

In contemplating these circumstances, the condition of the inhabitants, and the state of the surrounding districts, the mind is led to inquire, whether these mines have been advantageous, or disadvantageous to the welfare of the island? And all coincide to furnish a *negative* answer to the question. For it has been justly observed on this subject, and the remarks are peculiarly applicable to Anglesea, that to mining, amongst other causes, may be attributed the present uncultivated state of the island, and the immense proportion of waste lands; for it is an observation that applies to every country, where a spirit of mining is discoverable, there, in proportion, the spirit of patient industry, so necessary to agriculture, flags, and the labours of husbandry dwindle. The inhabitants generally become poor, and the face of the country wears evident marks of neglect and wretchedness: a system of adventure is generally accompanied by a spirit of gambling, and a mine discovered is considered as a fortune made. The minds of the inhabitants are called off from concerns more immediately pertinent, and engaged in delusive dreams of imaginary gain; property is called in to aid the imagination, and the aggregate capital and labour of a district that would have ameliorated the soil, and made the land a perennial source of wealth, is sunk, by diving into the earth some hundred fathoms; only to convince the adventurers that much has been spent, and barring the failure, much might have been gained. Because one mine has answered, and a few individuals have been enriched, all expect that similar pursuits must be crowned with equal success; not reflecting that where much is acquired, much must have been risked; and if but few

Few have proved fortunate, many must have failed : like the golden dreamers who support the lottery, counting the larger prizes, without once considering, that the very nature of a prize, bespeaks a blank, and the larger the one, the more numerous must be the other.

The peasantry, necessary to till the ground, are collected to one or two barren spots, whereby the soil is deprived of the means essential to its improvement. The poor are easily enticed to an employment, however dangerous in the pursuit, or hazardous in the issue, from the higher wages held up by the adventurers ; high wages tend to corrupt the morals of the lower classes, and invariably weaken the sinews of industry ; the views of the peasant are generally confined to the present hour : if he obtain more than he can properly spend to day, he has lost the motive for labour to-morrow ; idleness naturally superinduces vice ; and vice is the infallible road to misery and want. It is not to be expected that these people should calculate, or that they should observe, what produces great and sudden gain to the proprietors, cannot ensure certain employment for the labourers ; much less do they foresee, that, in case of failure, they will be suddenly turned adrift, to seek a livelihood where it may be found ; and that their families will be left in a starving state, while the land, on which the burden must fall, is not in a condition to support it. Those who have acquired riches from the bowels of the earth, and their united labours, and from whom they might expect the boon of charity, have left their residence, and repaired to the seats of luxury and dissipation. Observations like these, will obtrude themselves on the discriminating traveller, and whoever has been attentive to facts, cannot but have remarked, that wherever mines have abounded, agriculture has been in a despicable state, and the lower classes generally in the most abject poverty. By these remarks, it is not meant to despise the pursuits of mining, so essential to our manufactures, but to place them in their proper subordinate rank ; and to say, that mining should
never

never meet with pointed encouragement, till the agriculture of a country is in an improved and respectable condition.

The district to the north-west of Amlwch consists principally of an extensive sandy plain, which from some cultivated parts, exhibits marks of great fertility. The coast is intersected by several creeks and bays, and off it are three small islands, called the east, middle, and west *Mouse*. The middle one also is usually named *Inys Badrig*, from a circumstance recorded in the legendary life of the great Irish evangelist, *St. Patrick*; and on the opposite point stands a church denominated after him, LLANBADRIG. At a short distance from this, *Cemlyn bay* affords safe anchorage for small vessels, and receives the waters of the river *Gwygir*. In the adjacent parish of LLANFECHELL, is a large fallen cromlech, and also a fine quarry of very curious and beautiful marble, known to statuaries by the name of *Verde de Corsica*, and *verde antiche*; formerly procured from Corsica, or Italy. Its variegated colours are black, dull purple, divers shades of green, irregularly disposed, and sometimes intersected with white asbestine veins. This is a compound species of marble, partly composed of calcareous earth, soluble in nitric acid; and partly of magnesian; the whole constituting what is termed *serpentine*, in systems of mineralogy. From this quarry, which was lately purchased for one thousand pounds, blocks of a large size are procured, and capable of taking a high polish, they are cut into slabs, and worked up into chimney-pieces, side boards, and sepulchral ornaments.

YNYS Y MOEL RHONIAID, or *the Isle of Seals*, commonly called the *Skerries*, lying in front of the village of LLANRHWYDRUS, about half a league from the shore, is inhabited by a few poor sheep, and a numerous colony of rabbits; but is seldom visited, except in the season of puffins; the turbulency of the heavy sea, which runs through the narrow channel, presenting a prohibitory obstacle to adventurous curiosity. The surface of the island, is composed principally of bare, or half covered rocks, and on its highest elevation was erected about

the year 1730, a *light house**, for the convenience of ships, navigating between Ireland, and the ports of Liverpool and Chester. Though this light has been of great service, yet wrecks are still frequent on this coast, and to an observant mind, the projecting promontory, on the opposite side of the channel, denominated *Cader Rhwydrus*, furnishes a far more eligible site for a pharos; because the light would be visible to a much greater extent. This island anciently formed part of the property, belonging to the church of Bangor, and the members of that cathedral claimed an exclusive right of fishery on its shores. By some inattention on the part of the ecclesiastical steward, the privilege had been invaded, and a claim set up by the house of Penrhyn. In consequence of which, about the year 1498, bishop Dean made inquisition into the nature of the plea, in *person* resumed the fishery, and on that occasion is said to have taken twenty eight, “fishis called Grapas, when Sir William Griffith sent his son, and heire apparante with divers men in harnes, wiche ryetwsely in the seid bishope’s diocese took the seid fishis from the servants of the said bishope†.” This usurpation occasioned a legal contest, which terminated in the establishment of the prelatical right to the fishery. About the cliffs of this island, sport innumerable multitudes of fish, principally coalfish, cod, whiting, and what the Welsh call *gwrach*, the *Labrus tinca* of Linnæus.

CARREG LWYD, a good mansion, amidst fine luxuriant plantations, is the residence of *Holland Griffith, Esq.* one among the spirited and patriotic gentry of Anglesea, who from their example and encouragements are endeavouring to ameliorate their country by improving its agriculture:‡ the most permanent of all national resources.

In

* British vessels, passing this light house, pay one penny per ton, foreign do. two pence, and the annual produce from this tonnage, Mr. Pennant states in the year 1750, amounted to 1100. It has since increased to upwards of 1400l.

‡ By the exertions of this gentleman, and his laudable coadjutors, an agricultural society has been lately instituted, which has already, though
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In the parish of LLANFAIR-YNGHORNWY is a stratum of serpentine marble, containing narrow veins of a white silky asbestine kind of substance, which from its brittle nature prevents the stone from taking a very high polish: in consequence the quarrying has some time been abandoned. This has been supposed a similar substance to the *asbestos*, indestructible by fire, which the ancients considered equally estimable in value with pearls; and, as Pliny relates, only to be found in a territory of India, where rain never fell, and the residence of poisonous serpents and fiery scorpions. But what forms the intersections of this compound marble, is a sort of floscular calcareous crystallization, which, though very fragile, assumes a filmy appearance.

Monachty, in this parish, from the name, and the remains of a chapel, is said to have been anciently the site of a religious house, but the appellation was probably derived from its having constituted a part of the possessions, belonging to the abbey of Conway. This and two other adjacent farms are, to the present time, exempt from the payment of tithes.

About a mile from the village is one of those ancient monuments, called *meini hirion*, consisting of three large upright stones, standing at the distance of about five hundred yards from each other, the intermediate space forming nearly an equilateral triangle. In the vicinity of these are two circular encampments with a single foss and vallum, denominated *Castell Crwn*; and not far distant, in the parish of LLANFLEWYN, were dug up, some years ago, three golden bracelets, and a *bullæ* of the same metal, in high preservation, which were in possession of the late Mr. Pennant, who says, that he kept them "as curious memorials of the residence of the *Romans* in ancient Mona." On this remarkable ornament, worn by the Roman youth. Mr. Whitaker makes these curious observations:

in its infancy, had some influence upon the state of husbandry; and promises to be the means in a few years of changing for the better the face of the island.

tions:—" This well-known ornament of the Roman boys was made originally of leather among all ranks of people, I apprehend; as so it continued among the inferior to the last; and though it has never been suspected, it was plainly, I think, intended at first for an amulet rather than an ornament. That lively spirit of religiousness, which I have noticed before in the genius of the Romans, was greatly tinctured with superstition. And they hung amulets about the necks of their children, representing different parts of the human body, and even those which are characteristic of man. Upon the same principle, assuredly, bullas were originally made in the form of hearts. And what seems a full evidence that they wore amulets, they were frequently impressed with the figure of the sexual parts besides.

But they did not always retain the form of an heart, any more than they were always composed of leather. As the wealth of the state and the riches of individuals increased, the young patrician distinguished himself by a bulla of gold, while the common people wore the amulet of their ancestors. And the figure of an heart was laid aside for that of a circle. The bullas then became so generally round, and some even bearing the impression of an heart upon them, that there are not many of the original form, I believe, to be found in the cabinets of the curious. But many are preserved of the other; and one, particularly, was discovered about 40 years ago in Lancashire, being accidentally picked up by a lady in the station of Overborough. And when once the form had varied from an heart to a circle, the gradation was easy from a circle to a segment of it. There was some fantastical reason, no doubt, the suggestion of the original superstition, for using the former. And as good an one would easily be found in the reveries of religious folly, for adopting the latter. One Mancunian bulla is of this figure, and the only one that I know of in the kingdom. Very few indeed have been found within it. I recollect none at present, but our own and the Overborough bulla. And many cannot be expected, the leathern, that were lost must long since have

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perished.

perished. And what can we hope for of the golden, when they were thrown off at the age of puberty, and a patrician's son was not likely to come over and serve in the armies before? They can be expected only from the sons of patricians settled in the island, and employed in the civil or military offices of the country. And the number of these was in all probability small."*

LLANTRISANT church contains a plain handsome monument, sacred to the memory of the reverend *Dr. Hugh Williams*, ancestor of the *Wynnstay* family, and who derived his descent from *Cadrod Hardd*, a British chieftain. On the monument is a short epitaph, but the following, engraved on a flat stone beneath, comprises more particulars.

"*Hugh Williams de Nantanog S. S. Theologiæ professor hujus ecclesiæ et illius de Llanrhuddlad rector. Prebendarius de Vaynol in dioces Asaphen. Comportionarius de Llanddinam in agro Montgomeryensi. 21 Septembris ætatis anno 74. Dmi 1670, libentissime pro gregibus, fidei suæ comissis impendens et impensus 'p'claro certamine decertato cursum peregit.*

Disce,

Boni pastoris interest non tantum pervigilare,
Sed impendere et impendi pro gregibus."

SIR WILLIAM WILLIAMS, son of the above-mentioned Dr. Williams, was a distinguished character in the reigns of Charles the Second, and James the Second. He became a scholar of Jesus College, Oxford, in the year 1652, but removed two years after to Gray's Inn; and having been called to the bar, was made recorder of Chester, and represented that city in three successive *annual* parliaments: in the last two of which he held the office of *Speaker*. In the thirty-sixth year of Charles the Second, he was tried on an information of libel, preferred against him in the Court of King's Bench, for having caused to be printed, as speaker of the house, the information of *Thomas Dangerfield*,

* History of Manchester, Vol. I. p. 79.

Dangerfield, gent. And notwithstanding he pleaded in abatement, that by the law and custom of parliament, the speaker of the commons, according to the duty of his office, as a servant of the house, and during the sessions, had a right to speak, sign, and publish its proceedings, in such a manner as might be ordered by that honourable body; and that the speaking, signing, and publishing of the speaker was usually considered, as its own act and deed, and that the speaker ought not for such assumed liberty, to answer in any *other court, or place*, but in *parliament*; yet for licensing the said information to be printed, the court amerced him ten thousand pounds; and it is stated, that he was compelled to pay the greater portion of the fine. He was considered the most eminent lawyer of the time in which he lived, and returned knight of the shire for Caernarvon in three parliaments. When James the second acceded to the throne, Mr. Williams was taken into royal favour, and made the king's solicitor-general: in which capacity he acted at the memorable trial of *the seven bishops*. In the beginning of December 1687, he received the honour of knighthood, at Whitehall; and two years after was advanced to the dignity of a baronetcy. He married Mary, daughter and coheirress of Watkyn Kyffin, of Glascoed, in the county of Denbigh, by whom he had two sons and a daughter; and died at his chambers in Gray's Inn, July 11, 1700.*

PRESADDFED, the seat of *Sir John Bulkeley*, lies a little to the north of the London road. The house stands on the site of an ancient mansion, once the residence of *Hwfa ap Cynddelw*, a progenitor of one, among the distinguished Northwallian tribes, who, according to Rowlands†, held his estate in *fee‡*, by attend-

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* See Kimber and Johnson's Baronetage, Vol. II. p. 496.

† Mona Antiqua, p. 132.

‡ This kind of attendance, which constituted a condition of a fee, as service did of inferior tenures, appears to have been of divers sorts, according to the several occasional demands of the prince, in time of peace or war. The persons subject to the obligation were the nobles, or barons, and therefore the attendance is sometimes denominated, *baron-service*. These lords had nume-

ing the coronation of the prince, and supporting the canopy on that occasion. Near this place, out of a small lake issues a rivulet, which soon becomes tributary to the river Alaw; and at a little distance, in a field, are two large *cromlechs* ;* the one standing, and the other down. The table stone of the former measures thirteen feet in length, by nine in breadth, and is supported by three others, six feet in height. The one demolished is nearly of equal dimensions. On an adjacent eminence, in an erect posture, is a *maen hir*, or upright stone, about nine feet high, called *Llech-gwen-farwyd*, whence the parish received its appellation.

GWINDU, or *Gwindy*, considered the half way house and the posting inn on the mail road through the island from London to Ireland, being nearly an equal distance between Bangor ferry and Holyhead, is said to derive its name from *gwin*, wine, and *ty*, a habitation; euphonized according to the genius of the British language into *dy*; a compound term equivalent to the *wine-house*. On this "comfortable inn," as Mr. Pennant terms it, he observes, "there are few towns in Wales, which have not one of that name: but the use has long been lost. In old times most gentlemen's houses had one in their neighbourhood, where they met their friends and retainers, to *ymgampio*, or to exert feats of activity. Here the gentleman kept a cellar for wine, which he retailed for his own profit. Here they passed the day in archery, wrestling, throwing the sledge, and other manly exercises. At first the drinking was moderate; but at length the purpose was abused; and these places were made the sanctuary for all sorts of crimes, committed by the dependents or friends of the owner of the *gwindy*, who were recommended to his care: and there *Llarw-ruddion*

rous under-tenants both of freed-men as well as vassals, over whom they were lords in fee. And the learned historian of Anglesea thinks it a question worthy further investigation, whether, previous to the time of Edward the third, there was any such a thing as fee-simple existing through Wales, except what existed in noble feudatory possessions.

* This is not included in a list of twenty-eight of these ancient monuments enumerated by Mr. Bingley, as yet visible in the island.

ruddion, i. e. persons who came *red-handed* from a murder, were protected till composition could be made for their crimes.”* The *hospitality* of Wales, proverbial in history, is injured by this statement; and the ghost, if ghosts now walk, must be seen coming for satisfaction, during the dead of night, stalking in terrific array, through the spacious hall or long-drawn passages of *Bodychan*. This ancient building converted into a barn was once the seat of *Rhys ap Llewelyn ap Hwlkyn*, the first sheriff appointed for this island in the time of Henry the Eighth, and which office he held by royal mandate “*durante termino vitæ suæ*,” as long as he lived. This distinction he received as an acknowledgment for services, performed at the head of a company on behalf of the Lancastrian party, at the celebrated battle of *Bosworth field*. Part of his house, during his shrievality, constituted the county prison, the dungeon of which is still remaining. The property now belongs to *J. B. Sparrow, Esq.* who has a handsome mansion at RED-HILL near Beaumaris.

Leaving the mail road at LLANYNGENEDLE, another branches off to the right across the sands, which are fordable at very low water to *Penrhôs*, where in a bleak and dreary situation, stands PENRHOS HALL, a handsome modern mansion, lately erected under the direction of *Mr. Defferd*, and the present residence of *Lady Stanley*.

HOLYHEAD,

Denominated in British *Caer Cybi*, or the fortified place of Cybi†, is situated on a small island, at the north western extre-

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mity

* Tour in Wales, Vol. II. p. 129. It is with reluctance that the writer of this work is obliged to differ in opinion on the occasion from an author, who has evinced such an extensive acquaintance with the history and antiquities of the principality. But it is obvious to remark, that in Wales every single, or isolated house, has some appropriate distinctive name, generally taken from the natural attendant circumstances of the situation. In other cases from the shape, constructive substance, or colour of the building: *Gwynnty* or *Gwynudy*, is literally the *white-house*, so called, from its being white washed, and this decorative taste has rendered the appellation very general through the country.

† Mr. Pennant states, that he was surnamed Corineus, and a son of Solomon duke of Cornwall, received his religious education under Hilarius, bishop

mity of Anglesea, called *Inys Cybi*, from having been the residence of an eminent British saint, who after visiting Gaul, and distinguishing himself by his refutation of the heretical opinions of Arius, returned to his native country; and here in pious retirement spent the remainder of his days. Though it does not appear the Romans ever made any settlement in Ireland, yet from the account furnished by Tacitus*, respecting their connection with the British Isles, it is evident they traded with that country; when its ports and harbours for commercial purposes were perhaps more frequented, than at any subsequent period. No place could be better adapted for such an intercourse, both by the short distance between the British and Hibernian shores; its projecting far westward into the *Mare Vergivium* of Ptolemy, now denominated, the Irish sea; and its lying in the vicinity of the Roman stations, on the western coasts of *Flavia Casariensis*. From various remains of fortifications, in which the discriminating peculiarities of Roman workmanship are discoverable, it is highly probable the port was in possession of that enterprising people. On the summit of the mountain, called *Pen Caer Cybi*, is *Caer twr*, a circular building ten feet in diameter, which Mr. Pennant supposes to be the remains of an ancient *pharos*, or watch tower. On the side of the mountain runs a long dry wall ten feet high, in many places regularly faced, and quite entire. The precinct of the church yard seems to put in an equal claim for antiquity. The form is a parallelogram about two hundred and twenty feet long, and one hundred and thirty broad. Three of the sides consist of massy walls, six feet thick, and seventeen in height. The fourth is open to the harbour, having only a low parapet, laid on the precipitous cliffs. At each angle is a circular bastion tower; and along the walls are two rows of round openings, or oeillets, four inches in diameter, having

bishop of Poitiers; and, in honour of his instructor's memory, called one of the head lands of this insular spot, *St. Hilary's*, now *St. Elian's point*. Mr. Owen in his *Cambrian Biography* says, he was a son of "Selyv ab Geraint ab Erbin" and flourished in the sixth century.

* In *Vita Agricolaë*.

having the inside smoothly plaistered. The cement mixed with coarse pebbles, is extremely hard, and this, in conjunction with other circumstances, exhibits evident marks of Roman masonry. Some antiquaries, however, are of opinion, that the place was fortified in the sixth century by *Caswallon Larv-hir*, to repel the aggressions of the Irish Picts, who, after the departure of the Romans, made frequent depredatory incursions into this part of Britain. These marauders, invading Anglesea, after having massacred many of the islanders, at a place still denominated, from the cruel circumstances, *Cerrig y Gwyddel*, or the Hibernian rock, endeavoured to establish themselves, preparatory to future hostilities, by fortifying a place, called *Din dryfal*. On this occasion Caswallon, who had recently ascended the throne of North Wales, assembled an army, marched against the invaders, forced them to a battle, and having slain *Sirigi* their leader, made ample retaliation on the spot, which forms the site of the present town of Holyhead,*

A religious house is said to have been erected here, by prince Maelgwyn, so early as the latter part of the sixth century :† but the house for canons regular, called THE COLLEGE, appears to have been founded by Hwfa ap Cynddelw, lord of Llys Llifon, a cotemporary of Owen Gwynedd, who commenced his regal career in the year 1137. The head of this institution, formerly one of the three spiritual lords of Anglesea, Mr. Pennant observes, was usually denominated “ *Penclas*‡, or *Pencolas*,” ; but by the inscription on the exergue of the ancient seal, belonging to the chapter, “ *Sigillum Rectoris et capitali ecclesia de Caer Gybi*,” it appears his customary title was that of *rector*. He was styled in a subsequent period, provost ; for Edward the Third bestowed “ the provostship of his free chapel of Caer Cube on his chaplain Thomas de London, for which the king in 1351 dispensed with

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* Rowland's *Mona Antiqua*, p. 147.

† History of Anglesey, p. 29.

‡ This is probably a mistake for *Pencais*, that is, a chief judge in ecclesiastical matters, or a receiver general of a district.

services to himself.”* The original number of canons is uncertain; by an inquisition made in the year 1553, twelve persons, styled prebendaries, were found on the pension list, receiving an annual allowance of twenty shillings each†. Prior to the dissolution, the provost had an income of thirty nine marks, one chaplain a stipend of thirteen do.; and two others, each a moiety of the latter sum. The estimate, therefore, made in the time of Henry the Eighth, of its annual revenues, as amounting to only twenty-four pounds, must have been an under valuation. This college was granted by James the First, to Francis Morris, and Francis Phillips. It afterwards became the property of Rice Gwynne Esq. who in the year 1640 transferred the great tithes to Jesus College Oxford, for the maintenance of two scholars, and two fellows‡.

The collegiate, now the parochial Church, is a handsome embattled cruciform structure, consisting of a chancel, nave, aisles, and transept, with a square tower, surmounted by a low flat-kind of spire. The present edifice, exclusive of the chancel, appears to have been erected about the time of Edward the third. The inside of the entrance porch, and the external part of the south end of the transept are decorated with rude carvings. On the latter are the figures of a dragon, a man leading a bear, and other grotesque representations. On the pediments and battlements are cherubic heads, and on one, two figures in a supplicating posture with this inscriptive prayer, “*Sancta Kub: ora pro nobis.*”

A SCHOOL was established here in 1745, and the school-house constructed of materials, taken from an ancient religious building, called *Llan y Gwyddel*, or the Irish church. *Sirigi*, an Hibernian chieftain, having been here slain, as previously stated, was interred in this place; and canonized by his countrymen, his shrine was long frequented, for the reputed miracles performed at the tomb.

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* Newcourt's Repertorium, Vol. I. p. 453.

† Willis's Abbies, Vol. I. p. 303.

‡ Tanner's Notit. Monast.

AN ASSEMBLY ROOM and baths have lately been opened for public accommodation, but the town possesses few attractions for the votaries of pleasure.* It consists of one principal street, with several detached buildings, and according to the census in 1801, the number of houses was 473, and the population amounted to 2132. The weekly market on Saturdays is well supplied, particularly with fish.

The island on which the town is situated, being the nearest point of land toward Dublin, has always occasioned it to become a resort of numerous persons, passing between England and Ireland. The passage by sea both from Liverpool and Parkgate, has been found extremely hazardous, owing to the vicinity of the Welsh coast; along which vessels to and from either of those places must consequently pass, for half the voyage: and during heavy gales, by having been under the necessity of nearing it, many wrecks have occurred. The superior advantages, therefore, Holyhead presented for this maritime communication, induced individuals first, to fix upon it as a station for the purpose; and government afterwards, as the rendezvous of the packets, or vessels charged with the conveyance of the mails. The eligibility of this port for the mutual intercourse between the two countries, arises from ships being able in a short time to clear the land, in less danger of getting embayed, than from the above mentioned havens; and the distance by water considerably less. The extent of sea between Holyhead and Dublin, is twenty leagues, which the packets generally sail in twelve hours. They have been known to run it in six: but in stormy weather, or contrary winds, the voyage has taken up two or three days. Six are in the constant employment of the Post-Office†, and from these being remarkably stout and well constructed

* It is, however, in an improving state; the streets have lately been new paved, the causeways repaired, and a large new inn and hotel opened for the better accommodation of travellers.

† One goes out every day, except Thursday; and barring accident, returns the next morning.

constructed sloops, strongly manned, and having skilful masters; serious disasters have seldom happened. The *harbour* is formed by the cliffs under the church-yard, and a small island called Inys Cybi, on which is a light. The tide, however, runs rapidly out, and the port becomes a dry harbour.

Holyhead constituting such an important communication between, what till since the late union, were considered the sister kingdoms, has recently become the subject of national investigation. Facility of intercourse, so essential to the interests of each, has laudably occupied the attention of government. Two plans were presented for the accomplishment of this desirable object. The first in contemplation was, to erect a pier at Porth yn Llyn, twenty-two miles south-west of Caernarvon; which from the statement might thus be rendered "one of the best and safest harbours in the kingdom." That, however, for reasons more of a political, than a patriotic nature, was abandoned; and the second adopted. This was building a pier on the eastern side of Holyhead harbour, and thus enabling vessels to ride at anchor in four fathom water, instead of being stranded, or lying aground. Previous to this, before a ship could get out, the tide must flow three hours at spring, and four at neap tides,

This improving plan is now executing, and in further aid of it, a new road is projected, to be made quite across the country, from Cadnant Island, near Bangor Ferry, to the port, by which the distance would be reduced from twenty-five to eighteen miles; and several hills also avoided. The portion from Lady Stanley's villa, to Holyhead, will shortly be completed.

For the further accommodation also of the port, a new *light house* has been erected on a small island, or rather protruding rock, to the west of the head, called the *South Stack*.* The light is produced by Argand's lamps, and the elevation above the

* The sea breaks so powerfully in the narrow channel, that no boat could stem it. Persons, therefore, to see the light-house, are wafted over in a kind of basket, by means of blocks and ropes.

the level of the sea, is about two hundred feet. This is constructed upon a grand scale, so that the visibility extends through the whole of Caernarvon bay. The principle being a revolving light, renders it easily distinguishable from the one on the island of Skerries; from which it bears south-west half west, distant nearly eight miles. The promontory, strictly called *the Head*, is either an immense precipice, or huge mass of rocks hollowed into most magnificent caves: one is peculiarly worthy of observation. It has received the vulgar appellation of the Parliament-house, from the frequent visits made by water parties to see this wonderful cavern: it being only accessible by boats, and that at half ebb tide. It is one of those usual phenomena produced by the action of sea water upon the soluble parts of stratified rocks; more especially, where calcareous substances are prevalent in their composition. Grand receding arches of different shapes, supported by pillars of rock, exhibit such a magnificent scene, that cannot fail to astonish the beholder, unaccustomed to Nature's bolder works. The promontory consists of high cliffs of various heights, abounding with large caverns, which afford shelter for innumerable birds, such as pigeons, gulls, razor bills, ravens, guillemots, cormorants, and herons. On the loftiest crags lurks the peregrine falcon, the bird so high in repute while falconry continued a fashionable amusement. The eggs of many of these birds are sought after as delicious food, and considered as a great treat to the epicurean. The price procured for them is a sufficient inducement for the poor, to follow the adventurous trade of egg-taking: but in this, as in the pearl-fishery on the coasts of Persia, the gains bear no tolerable proportion to the danger incurred. The adventurers having furnished themselves with every necessary implement for the business, while the sun affords assistance by his beams, enter on the terrific undertaking: two, for this is a trade in which co-partnership is absolutely necessary, take a station; he, whose turn it happens to be, or whose superior agility renders it eligible, prepares for the rupestrian expedition: a strong stake is driven into the ground at some distance from the edge
of

of the cliff, to which a rope of sufficient length to reach the lowest haunts of those birds is affixed : fastening the other end round his middle, and taking the coil on his arm, and laying hold with both his hands, he throws himself over the brow of the cliff; placing his feet against its sides, and carefully shifting his hands, he gradually descends till he comes to the abode of the birds; then, putting his left hand into the hole, while suspending himself with the other, he takes possession of its contents; carefully placing the eggs in a basket slung at his back for the purpose. Having despoiled all the nests within his extent of rope, he ascends by the same means to the edge of the cliff, where his partner, whose duty hitherto was to guard the stake, crawling on hands and knees, affords him assistance in doubling the cliff, which otherwise he would be unable to do. Dangerous employ ! a slip of the foot, or the hand would in an instant be fatal to both : instances have occurred, where the weight of the one overcoming the strength of the other, both have been precipitated down the craggy steep, and their mangled carcases buried in the ocean : but these are rare. To a stranger and bye stander, this occupation appears more dangerous than it really is ; in persons habituated to bodily difficulty, the nervous system becomes gradually braced, and the solids attain that state of rigidity, which banishes irritability ; while the mind, accustomed to scenes of danger, loses that timidity which frequently leads to the dreaded disaster. To the person whose heart palpitates at the near approach to such heights, it must appear a presumptuous employ, and daily instances of its fatality might be expected ; but fact demonstrates the contrary, and serves to prove how much we are the creatures of habit, and to what an extent difficulty and danger may be made subordinate to art and perseverance. A sight of this perilous employ will remind the beholder of that fine description,

“ How fearful

“ And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low !

“ The crows, and choughs, that wing the midway air,

“ Shew scarce so gross as beetles . Half way down

“ Hangs one who gathers samphire ; dreadful trade !” Shakespeare.

This

This dismembered member of Anglesea, which from the number of pious persons interred, received the name of Holy Island, has had, subsequent to the Bardic period, peculiar attentions paid it, in a religious point of view. The foundations of *Capel y Gorlles*, *Capel St. Efraid*, &c. &c. are still traceable "amongst several which are scattered about this holy promontory." The whole of this small island consists principally of barren rocks, or dreary sands. A common, called *Towyn y Capel* is bounded on the western side by rocks, over which during the prevalence of high winds the sea breaks in a most stupendous and awful manner: many of these from being sunken at full tide, are justly the dread of mariners. The southern part of this tract of country constitutes the parish of *Rhoscolyn*, in which near what is called *Four-mile bridge*, is a quarry of serpentine, or marble, containing a green amianthus, or brittle asbestos, similar to that, previously described, under the title of *Verde di Corsica*. The channel, dividing this from the other part of Anglesea, is narrow, and fordable in places, at low water. The great Irish road is carried over a bridge, called from the circumstance of its formerly having been a ford, *Rhyd y Bont*, or *Rhyd y Pont*. The country from hence to the south western part of the island, is uninteresting and dreary, and the unpleasant impressions, it occasions to the traveller, are increased by the recurrent and reverberated sounds of distant horns.*

ABERFFRAW,

Or *Aberfraw*, situated at the place, where the river *Ffraw* discharges its waters into a small bay of the same name, was one of the three royal residences of Wales: and a seat of their principal courts of justice. Here the Northwallian princes had for centuries

* These are constantly sounding in all directions to call the labourers on the respective farms to their meals.

centuries* a magnificent palace, and here was deposited one of the three copies of the celebrated code of laws, enacted by the great Cambrian legislator *Howel Dda or Hywel Dda*.†

Few vestiges, however, at present are left to mark its former greatness. Some trifling remains of the ancient palace are shewn in the walls of a building, now used as a barn; but this is only analogous conjecture. By the returns made to government under the population act, the number of houses, in 1801, amounted to 179; and inhabitants to 936. These find employment principally in husbandry and fishing. A small harbour, capable of admitting sloops of forty tons burthen, is of some little advantage to the neighbourhood, by the facility it affords for the exportation of corn. Several thousand bushels of oats, and barley, are annually shipped at this port; an evident proof of the fertility of the circumjacent country. Though the market has long been discontinued, yet there are in this, as in many other places in the island, two chapels for the people generally denominated Methodists; the one for those of Calvinistic, and the other, for those of Arminian tenets.

Here was born WALTER STEWARD, who according to Rowlands, was the ancestor of the royal house of the *Stewards* or *Stuarts*, kings of Scotland and of England. “We have,” he says, after enumerating several distinguishing particulars, in favour of his native island, “by a strange compensation of Providence, the honour to say, that her late majesty, queen Anne of glorious memory, as well as some of her royal ancestors before her, enjoyed the ancient kingdom of Scotland, the kingdom of England, and the principality of Wales, by right of inheritance, from persons whose descent and origin were from the Isle of Anglesey.

* Roderic the Great, about the year 870, fixed upon this place as the seat of government for his successors, and from that period, it continued to be a royal residence till the death of Llewelyn, in 1282.

† Another transcript of this celebrated system of Jurisprudence was ordered to be kept also at Dinevawr, in Caermarthenshire; and a third in the custody of the Doctors of Law.

Anglesey. For she had the name of her family, and the crown of Scotland, as descended from *Walter Steward*, who was born at Aberffraw; the crown of England, in right of the lady *Margaret Tudor*, paternally descended from *Owen Tudor*, of Penmynydd in Anglesey; and she inherited the principality of Wales from *Gwladus Ddu*, only surviving daughter and heir of *Llewelyn ap Jerwerth*, prince of Wales, born and bred in Anglesey, who was married to Sir *Ralph Mortimer*; by which marriage the inheritance of the principality of Wales; in right of blood, came to the house and family of York, and by them to the crown, where it now happily rests.”*

Near this place have been frequently found the amulets called *gleiniau nadroedd*, or snake gems, supposed to have been manufactured by the Romans, and given to the superstitious Britons in exchange for their exports.†

It is commonly believed among the vulgar, that about Midsummer snakes congregate, when joining their heads together, and giving a conjoint hiss, a kind of bubble is formed in the head of one of them; which the other, then resuming his hissing, blows forward till it comes off at the tail. This after it has become hard by exposure to the weather, resembles a glass ring, which, whoever has the good luck to find, will prosper in all their future undertakings.

The above account, still strong in Welsh tradition, was given by Pliny centuries ago in his Natural History, which need not be repeated in his own language; a spirited poetic translation having been given by a late ingenious poet.

“ But tell me yet
From the grot of charms and spells,
Where our matron sister dwells,

Brennius

* *Mona Antiqua*, p. 175.

† These, made of glass, are of a rich blue colour, some streaked, and others plain. They are now used to cure a cough, the ague, or assist children in cutting their teeth.

Brennus, has thy holy hand
 Safely brought the Druid wand,
 And the potent *Adder-stone*,
 Gendered 'fore the autumnal moon ;
 When in undulating twine,
 The foaming snakes prolific join ;
 When they hiss, and when they bear
 Their won'drous egg aloof in air ;
 Thence before to earth it fall,
 The Druid in his hallow'd hall,
 Receives the prize,
 And instant flies,
 Follow'd by the envenom'd brood
 'Till he cross the crystal flood.*

In this vicinity also is the small lake of *Llyn Coron*, about two miles in circumference, abounding with several kinds of fish, particularly trout, and *Gwyniad* ; which induces numbers to frequent it in the summer season, for the amusement of angling.

In the church of *LLANGADWALADER*, said to have been founded by Cadwallader, last king of the Britons, who appointed it one of the sanctuaries for the island, the stone, mentioned by Rowlands, still remains, forming the lintel of the southern entrance doorway ; and has the inscribed face downwards. This, combined with the obliterations of time, has rendered it difficult to decipher ; and antiquaries have consequently differed as to the import of its meaning. The above author says it is to be read thus,

CATAMANUS REX SAPIENTISSIMUS OPINATISSIMUS OMNIUM
 REGUM.

* This inscription he supposes to have been commemorative of *Catamanus* or *Cadfan*, the grandfather of the founder, who
 was

* Mason's *Caractacus*.

† A fac simile is given on plate IX of the *Mona Antiqua Restorata*, and below it a corrected one by the Editor. Having lately examined them both, the latter is evidently the least inaccurate.

was interred here, and not, as generally stated, in the island of Bardsey.

EPITAPH.

In obitum *Orwini Woode* armigeri, qui obuit 6. die *April* Ao, Dni. 1602. Ætat suæ 76.

*Felix ter felix, marmor quia nobile lignum
Quo caret infelix insula, marmor, habes,
Owen et patria vivens fuit utile lignum.
Et lignum vitæ post sua fata Deo.
Filius ista meo posui monumenta parenti
Sit precor ut tecum nomen ita Omen idem.*

1602.

BODORGAN is the handsome residence of *Owen Putland Meyric, Esq.* The house situated on an eminence, clothed with wood, in a small park, well supplied with deer, is an elegant modern structure, consisting of a centre, and two wings; erected after the design of Mr. Defferd, an architect who has evinced in this, and several others of his plans, a very considerable portion of genuine taste.

LLANGRISTIOLIS, the birth place of DR. HENRY MAURICE, will ever be remembered by the lovers of literature. His father was curate of the parish, and Henry, after receiving a scholastic education at Beaumaris; was, by the liberal conduct of Sir Leoline Jenkins, principal of Jesus College Oxford, admitted in the year 1664, at the age of sixteen, servitor of that learned seminary. His extraordinary genius was soon discovered, by that sagacious observer of men and manners. He was elected a scholar upon the foundation, and on the next vacancy advanced to the fellowship. On Sir Leoline Jenkins being sent ambassador to Cologne, Mr. Maurice attended him on the embassy; and became his particular friend and associate, during the time of his useful services at different foreign courts. On his return, after a very long and arduous residence, in which Mr. Maurice had eminently distinguished himself, adorned the profession he had chosen, and made the church of England, as by law

established, respected abroad; he was patronised by Dr. Lloyd, successively bishop of St. Asaph, Litchfield, and Worcester, on whose recommendation Archbishop Sandcroft, of pious memory, appointed him one of his domestic chaplains. Here he obtained leisure for writing, and had a fine opportunity for displaying his polemical abilities. *David Clarkson*, a nonconformist divine, about this time had published a treatise, intitled “No evidence for Diocesan Episcopacy in the Primitive times,” which Mr. Maurice completely refuted. In this controversy a most curious charge was made by Mr. Maurice, respecting his literary antagonist, which applies with peculiar strength to similar discussions in the present day. That he had often “to complain of the fatigue he underwent, in writing his answers to Clarkson,” who for the sake of demurrer would convert villages into towns, and vice versa; particularly respecting episcopal seats, or jurisdictions. In 1691 Dr. Maurice, having been preferred to the rectory of Newington, was elected Margaret professor of divinity in Oxford; and soon after taking possession of the annexed prebend in Worcester cathedral, suffering severely from the contention of enviable competitors, he fell a martyr to disease, arising from the consequent spleen.

Malldraeth or *Malltraeth**, an arm of the sea, flowing far up into land, constitutes a very curious geological phenomenon. The direction is south-west, to north-east, extending from Llanddwyn point to Llangefni bridge; a distance of about fifteen miles. It is flanked by two ranges of limestone rock, which run in the same line of bearing, either separate, or coalescing to Red-wharf bay, on the opposite side of the Island. This grand opening, Mr. Rowland’s supposes, was formed at the deluge, by the immense portion of land-locked water, that lay in a widely expanded bottom on the north east side of the island; which forcing

* The appellation of this estuary has been supposed derived from *Malt* and *traeth*, that is, the evil or dangerous sand: a name sufficiently appropriate from the hazards of passing at certain states of tide; but perhaps it may be more consistent with the genius of the language, and the nature of the substances, which compose the traeth, to refer it to *mall*, soft, or yielding; as fully expressive of the general character of these sands.

forcing its passage through a rocky ridge, by the impetuous power of the element, formed one of those vents, called *nantydd*; and the pass above Llangefni obtains to the present time, the name of “*Carreg y forwyllt*, or the eruptive rock.” What this learned author observes, respecting the pressure of the waters, carrying down by their specific gravity the soil, previously loosened by their reverberating violence, is evidently manifest in the actual state of this tract of country. Opposed to the sands, thrown up with the influent tide, the alluvial matter intermixes, and forms a mass of various soils in the numerous depressions; consisting in some places of fine meadow land occasionally overflowed; in others of rushy moors, and broken turbaries.

These circumstances of the different nature of the soil, and the occasional recession of the recoiling waters, induced persons, at an early period, to form a plan of regaining from the Proteus like visitor, some of the lands thus apparently unjustly, or wantonly seized. An *embankment* was formed across the Traeth, by which a vast quantity of very fine land was drained, and secured from the depredations of the sea. The benefits of this having been for centuries lost, a new work was undertaken and completed; but owing to some very culpable neglect, what might have stood centuries, was suffered to decay for want of the requisite repairs*. The sea made its way through several places, the waters rushed over the beautifully verdant and luxuriant meads, and the disrupted banks still exhibit a melancholy and striking instance of what energy or indolence effect towards ameliorating, or deteriorating the state of a country. Here however let the writer proudly turn to the rising, and he trusts, persevering spirit lately displayed on this, as well as several other occasions, in this naturally productive county. A scheme has been some time in contemplation, and is now about to be carried into execution, for erecting another embankment

S 2

upon

* This was carried across the Traeth, a little below the village of Trefdraeth, and was about a mile and a half in length.

upon a more enlarged scale, and durable plan* ; which when accomplished, will form a most advantageous communication between the different parts of the island, by the new road intended to be carried across the embankment, exclusive of the quantity of valuable lands, which by this work will be recovered and drained. But this long useless, at least, unaccommodating tract, has still more valuable attractive claims upon the landholders, and those interested by local ties, respecting its intrinsic value. The line of depression between the limestone boundaries of this Traeth, and with great probability in the same bearing to Traeth coch, abounds with strata of *coal* : the veins, as far as the miners, observations have gone, are thick, the beds extensive, and the coals of a most excellent quality. A few years since shafts were sunk in the vicinity of Tref-draeth ; but from some of those common fatalities, which ever attend large concerns, not conducted by science, nor supported by spirit, the promising work apparently failed ; and was imprudently abandoned in despair. But failure, in some instances, produces competition in others. A new trial, under the auspices of the earl of Uxbridge, Mr. Meyric, and others, has met with the wished-for success. Coals have been raised, the obstructions from water are removed by a powerful steam engine ; the united endeavours of the proprietors augur much gain to themselves, and manifold advantages to the island. The new works are at *Pentre Berew*, about five miles north easterly of the old, and these two points manifestly indicate the line, for further researches in quest of this invaluable fossil. Of what importance the opening of sufficient coaleries for the supplying the country with fuel, would be, may be deduced from two very serious facts ; the second of which results from the first. The enormous high price†, coals bring in the island in a great measure operates

* A meeting was lately held at Llangefnai, for taking into consideration, the propriety and immediate expediency of such an undertaking.

† Anglesea is furnished with this necessary article from the coal-works in Lancashire. Coals, at Liverpool, sell for twelve and thirteen shillings per ton.

operates as a prohibition of their use, among the inferior classes of the inhabitants. These are, therefore, under the hard necessity of spending a portion of their time, in going in quest of fuel. Peat and turf, after digging, drying, carrying, housing, &c. are far from being cheap articles; and all cannot obtain a sufficient quantity of those kinds of firing. Their wants therefore must be supplied, by collecting sticks, wood, gorse, fern, and other combustible substances, in consequence of which, the hedges have been destroyed, quick fences prevented from attaining their desired growth, and the lands left in that open, or defenceless state in which they appear through many parts of the county. Thus agriculture, and the whole system of rural economy materially suffers: the sinews of the island, a highly productive husbandry, are constantly weakened; and a district, which from the natural richness of the soil; and other advantageous circumstances, might assume the luxuriance of paradise, wears in numerous instances the garb of sterility, of derelict lands, and a deserted country. The obstacles it presents to the introduction of various manufactures in diverse operations of which, coals are essentially requisite, is, though a secondary, not an unimportant consideration. For the connection between agriculture and trade is so intimate, and the reciprocal advantages so great, that their approximation is in all cases, but especially in insular situations, a most desirable object. Nor should it be omitted, since Anglesea has opened her subterraneous treasures, that even in this point of view, the obtaining coals at a moderate price, must be, as it long has been, a grand desideratum: particularly to the holders of mineral property. Even while the exuberant mines in the mountainous ridge of Tryselwyn were in full work, by far the greater part of the ore was necessarily shipped to other places, productive of coal; for the purposes of smelting and refining: and to this

S 3

circumstance,

ton. But after the expence of freightage by sea, land carriage, and the import duty are added, the price is enhanced to the distressing sum of two pounds!!

circumstance, among some few others, may perhaps be attributed the present languishing state of the concern, and the little prospect of its being in a more flourishing condition.

NEWBOROUGH,

Across the Malldraeth estuary, the sands of which are fordable at low water, about three miles from the sea shore stands this small insignificant place in the scale of towns. Owing to the difficult pass over the Traeth, it is seldom visited, but by travellers, whose object is something, surpassing common amusement. Yet whoever passes Bodorgan, and has previously made his exploratory inquiries respecting Aberfraw, will be inclined to pay some small attention to Newborough, so intimately connected in its history with the former village. The British name was *Rhos-vair*, and here was a Llys or royal palace of the Northwallian princes, who appear occasionally, as safety or prudence dictated in those troublous times, to have taken up their residence at this, or the other palace north of the Traeth. Originally a seat of justice for the comot of Menai, it continued to be so, long subsequent to its having been subjected to the crown of England. Edward the first, annexed it to the royalties of the prince of Wales, erected the town into a corporation*; granted a gild and mercate, with other privileges; which were confirmed by a parliament, held in the reign of Edward the third. It had the honour of sending a representative to the British senate in the third year of Henry the eighth, and again in the first year of Edward the sixth, who, in the following year transferred the elective franchise to Beaumaris. By virtue of its ancient charter, Newborough is still governed by a mayor, recorder, and two bailiffs, with other assistant officers; but the pristine glory of the place is now no more, and its weekly market, formerly held on Saturdays, is discontinued.

By

* Hence it received the English name of *New-borough*.

By the census taken in 1801, the number of houses was 176, and the population amounted to 599 persons. Some of these are employed in the manufacturing of matting, nets, and cordage, which latter, from its being composed of a species of sea-reed grass, are called *rhosir-morhesg* ropes; * others in the labours of husbandry, and a few in fishing.

In the vicinity of what has been considered the domestic chapel to the royal palace, is an upright stone, bearing a commemorative inscription, thus read by Mr. Rowlands.

“CUR FILIUS CURRICINI EREXIT HUNC LAPIDEM.”

The author of the History of Anglesea reads it differently,

“FILIUS ULRICI EREXIT HUNC LAPIDEM.”

It is supposed to have been set up for some Danish chieftain, who fell in battle here. This is probable, as the Danes were used much to infest this part of the coast: and similar sepulchral monuments are frequently found in Scandinavia.

Newborough, it is observed by the Hon. Daines Barrington,† was celebrated in Wales, for being the residence and birth-place of JOHN MORGAN, an old blind musician, who was among the last that understood playing upon the ancient instrument called the *Crwth*, whence the modern violin and violencello were probably derived. A man by the name of Williams also, about the same time was both a performer on these curious in-

S 4

struments,

* “A plant,” Mr. Pennant observes, “of which, Queen Elizabeth, in tenderness to such of her subjects, who lived on sandy shores, wisely prohibited the extirpation, in order to prevent the misfortunes, which have since happened, of having half the parish buried in the unstable sands, by the rage of tempests.” “Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 5.

See also the dire effects of these fleeting sands in Cordiner’s Letters on the Ruins and Prospects of North Britain.

† Archeologia, Vol. III. p. 38.

struments, and also a manufacturer of them. He was by trade a barber, and resident at Holyhead. But both these *Crwderos*' are dead, the *crwth* is intirely disregarded, the enthusiastic attention once paid to its full vibrating strings is no more ; and the remembrance, auricularly, like the sounds of dying music at a distance.

LLANDDWYN, the frontier parish to Newborough, towards the sea, forms a kind of peninsula, the whole of which is covered with *meals*, or sand hills. The driftings from these, during the prevalence of strong westerly winds, fleeting over the adjacent lands, form a sad annoyance to the vicinity. Amidst a sandy flat, surrounded by rocks, near the shore, was an oratory of St. *Dwynwen*, the daughter of Brychan Urth, a holy man, who lived in the fifth century. As the British *Venus*, or tutelary saint of lovers, her votaries were very numeroûs. A church having been built on the spot, a shrine erected to her memory, was attended by multitudes of devotees in the ages of superstition ; and the religious, who, from this circumstance, were induced to take up their recluse residence here, made no small gains from the pious ignorance of the people. The patroness of amatorial connections was profusely supplied with votive offerings, by sighing nymphs, and rejected swains, to secure her interference and good offices, in softening the, otherwise, obdurate hearts of the desired objects. The bard of *Bro ginin* thus beautifully addresses the sea-born goddess, “ *Dwynwen*, fair as the hoary tears of morning, thy golden image in its choir, illumined with waxen torches, well knows how to heal the pains of yonder cross-grained mortals. A wight that watches within thy choir, blest is his happy labour, thou splendid beauty ! with afflictions or with tortured mind shall none return from *Llanddwyn*. ”*

Here subsequently is said to have been an abbey, founded for Benedictine monks, but it probably was only a cell, of a
very

* Works of Davydd ap Gwilym, printed in London, 1789, by Owen Jones and William Owen.

very small chapter of canons ; for it appears, by an inquisition made in the time of Edward the Third, there were on this tract of land only eight small houses, or, as they were, then denominated, *weles*.* The religious, however, were amply supplied by the oblations received from the pilgrims, who resorted to this place to pay their devoirs to reliques ; and to practise an heathen custom, for diving into futurity, called *ἡδυμαντεία*, or divination by fishes. And so wealthy was the treasury belonging to the shrine of Dwywnwen, in the time of Owen Glyndwr, that it became a subject of a very serious depredatory quarrel. According to the visitation, made in the reign of Henry the eighth, the revenues constituted one of the richest prebends belonging to the cathedral of Bangor.

This part of the coast, from the several narrow sandy coves between the rocks, calculated to run in small vessels unobserved by revenue officers, was formerly much the resort of smugglers ; but the commercial regulations, lately adopted by government, have nearly stopped this illicit trade.

Abermenai Ferry lies almost opposite to Caernarvon bar, where is a very narrow and difficult entrance into the port of Caernarvon. Inside the bar, the straits are two miles over, but the sands render navigation almost as dangerous within, as without. This is one of the five ferries, sanctioned by authority, between the island and the mainland. These, after the subduction of Wales to the king of England, became the property of the Crown, till the time when Henry the eighth made a grant of them to Richard Giffard, one of the sewers of his chambers, who, in the thirty-third year of that monarch's reign, let them on a term to Wm. Bulkeley. This only remains in the family, the rest having been transferred to other hands. Though these appear to have been well chosen according to the nature of the straits ; yet from sand banks, opposing tides, issuing out of two seas, and other contingent circumstances, the passage across either, cannot be considered, what with propriety may be called *safe*. Serious accidents have occurred at each, and more perhaps than

have

* Rowlands's MSS.

have been generally promulgated. But one, which happened at this, in the month of December, 1785, when the passage boat was lost and all the passengers, fifty-five in number, perished, except one, *Mr. Hugh Williams*, lately living at, or near Aberffraw; affords a truly affecting and melancholy tale of woe, that must be interesting to every sympathetic bosom. The unaffected narrative of the melancholy event was received from *Mr. Williams* himself, and his story is too impressive and too simple to be related in any other than nearly his own words.

“The Abermenai ferry-boat usually leaves Caernarvon on the return of the tide, but the 5th of December, being the fair-day, and there being much difficulty on that account, in collecting the passengers, the boat did not leave Caernarvon that evening till near four o’clock, though it was low water at five; and the wind, which blew strong from the south-east, was right upon our larboard bow. It was necessary that the boat should be kept in, pretty close to the Caernarvonshire side; not only that we might have the benefit of the channel, which was near the shore, but also that we might be sheltered from this wind which blew directly towards two sand-banks, at that time divided by a channel, called *Traethau Gwylltion*, The Shifting Sands.—

“These lay somewhat more than half way betwixt the Caernarvonshire and the Anglesea coasts. It was not long before I perceived that the boat was not kept sufficiently in the channel, and I immediately communicated to a friend * my apprehensions that we were approaching too near the bank. He agreed in my opinion, and we accordingly requested the ferry-men to use their best efforts to keep her off. Every possible exertion was made to this purpose with the oars, for we had no sail, but without effect, for we soon after grounded upon the bank; and the wind blew at this time so fresh, as at intervals to throw the spray entirely over us.

“Alarmed at our situation, as it was nearly low water, and as there was every prospect, without the utmost exertion, of
being

* Thomas Coledock, gardener to O. P. Meyrick, Esq. of Bodorgan.

being left on the bank, some of the tallest and strongest of the passengers immediately leapt into the water, and with their joint force, endeavoured to thrust the boat off. This, however, was to no purpose, for every time they moved her from the spot, she was with violence driven back. In this distressing situation, the boat half filled with water, and a heavy sea breaking over us, we thought it best to quit her, and remain on the bank in hopes, before the rising again of the tide, that we should receive some assistance from Caernarvon. We accordingly did so, and almost the moment after we had quitted her, she filled with water, and swamped. Before I left her I had, however, the precaution to secure the mast, on which, in case of necessity, I was resolved to attempt my escape: this I carried to a part of the bank nearest to the Anglesea shore, where I observed my friend with one of the oars, which he had secured for a similar purpose.

“ We were, at this time, including men, women, and children, fifty-five in number, in a situation that can much better be conceived than described. Exposed on a quick-sand, in a dark cold night, to all the horrors of a premature death; which, without assistance from Caernarvon, we knew must be certain on the return of the tide, our only remaining hope was, that we could make our distress known there. We accordingly united our voices in repeated cries for assistance, and we were heard. The alarm bell was rung, and, tempestuous as the night was, several boats, amongst which was that belonging to the custom-house, put off to our assistance. We now entertained hopes that we should shortly be rescued from the impending danger; but how were we sunk in despair when we found that not one of them, on discovering our situation, dared to approach us, lest a similar fate should also involve them. A sloop from Barmouth, lying at Porth Leidiog, had likewise slipt her cable to drop down to our assistance, the only effectual relief we could have received; but before she floated, the scene, was closed.

“ Finding that our danger was now every moment increasing, and no hopes of help whatever could be entertained, I determined

mined to continue no longer on the bank, but to trust myself to the mercy of the sea. Being a tolerably good swimmer, I had full confidence, that with the mast, I should be able to gain the Anglesea shore. I accordingly went to the spot where I had deposited it, and found my friend there, with the oar in his hand. I proposed to him that we should tie the mast and oar together with two straw ropes, which he also had along with him, and endeavoured to persuade him to trust ourselves upon them. I fastened them together as securely as possible, and finding, after repeated endeavours to prevail on him to accompany me, that he had not fortitude enough to do it, I was determined to make the effort alone. I pulled off my boots and great coat, as likely to impede me in swimming: he committed his watch to my care, and we took a last farewell. I pushed the raft a little off the bank, and placed myself upon it, but at that moment it turned round, and threw me underneath. In this position, with one of my arms slung through the rope, and exerting all my endeavours to keep my head above water, overwhelmed at intervals with the spray, which was blown over me with great violence, I was carried entirely off the bank. When I had been in the water, as near as I could recollect, about an hour, I perceived, at a considerable distance, a light. This I believed to be (as it afterwards proved) in Tal y Voel ferry-house: my drooping spirits were revived, and I made every exertion to gain the shore, by pushing the raft towards it, at the same time calling out loudly for help. But judge of my disappointment, when, in spite of every effort, I was carried past the light, and found myself driving on rapidly before the wind and tide, deprived now of every hope of relief. Dreadful as my situation was, I had, however, still strength enough to persevere in my endeavours to gain the shore. These, after being for some time beaten about by the surge, which several times carried me back into the water, were at length effectual. After having been upwards of two hours tossed about by the sea, in a cold and tempestuous night, supported only by clinging hold of the mast, and oar of a small boat, I was thus providentially
retrieved

retrieved from, otherwise, inevitable death. I now felt the dreadful effect of the cold I had endured, for, on endeavouring to rise, that I might seek further assistance, my limbs refused their office. Exerting myself to the utmost, I endeavoured to crawl towards the place where I had seen the light, distant at least a mile from me, but at last was obliged to desist, and lie down under a hedge, till my strength was somewhat recovered. The wind and rain soon roused me, and after repeated struggles, and the most painful efforts, I at length reached the Tal y Voel ferry-house. I was at first seen by a female of the family, who immediately ran screaming away, under the idea that she had encountered a ghost. The family, however, by this means were roused, and I was taken into the house. They put me into a warm bed, gave me some brandy, and applied heated bricks to my extremities: this treatment had so good an effect, that, on the following morning no other unpleasant sensation was left than that of extreme debility. Having been married but a very short time, I determined to be the welcome messenger to my wife of my own deliverance. I therefore hastened home as early as possible, and had the good fortune to find, that the news of the melancholy event had not before reached my dwelling.

“ This morning presented a spectacle along the shore which I cannot attempt to describe. Several of the bodies had been cast up during the night. The friends of the sufferers crowded the banks, and the agitated enquiries of the relatives after those whose fate was doubtful or unknown, and the affliction of the friends of those already discovered, to this day fill me with horror in the recollection. I, alas, was the only surviving witness of the melancholy event. Besides those bodies thrown upon the shore by the tide, so many were found in various positions, sunk in the sand bank, that it was not till after several tides, that they could all be dug out. My boots and great coat were found under the sand, nearly in the place where I had left them. The boat was never seen afterwards, and it is supposed to be even yet lodged in the bank.”

Tal y foel, or the bald head-land, one of the principal ferries

so denominated from the coast, being loftier here, than in the vicinity, and one abrupt rock, devoid of verdure, presenting itself as you approach the shore. It has been stated, the “Menai, somewhere off this place, was the scene of a sea-fight about the middle of the 12th century, that has been celebrated in Welsh verse by a bard of the name of Gwalchmai.”* And that it was the battle alluded to by Gray, in his Praise of Owen a fragment. But there are reasons to suppose, the conflict, which forms the subject of the poem, partook more of a military than a naval character; and that the principal site, was where it has already been placed, on the north eastern coasts of the island.† First it is not likely in the time of Henry the second, that a king of North Wales should be possessed of a powerful fleet, sufficient to contend with the combined squadrons of Erse, Manks, and Normans; besides little is mentioned in the records of that period, respecting maritime warfare between the English and the Welsh. And it is obvious to remark in perusing their annals, that among other causes of national decay, there was one, which, though not inherent in their own government, had been a striking defect in their ancestors, the Britons; and with a single exception ‡ continued to mark the policy of their princes, till the period in question; and that was; a total inattention to their naval power; although its utility was apparent from their maritime situation; and its expediency pointed out in the examples of surrounding enemies; who by a superiority at sea, were enabled to transport their armies rapidly from place to place, harass the coasts, and wage, with impunity, a depredatory and vexatious warfare. Owen Gwynedd began to see the necessity of adopting this essential mode of defending a sea-bound country, but his means were far from being adequate

* Bingley’s North Wales, Vol. I. p. 287.

† The Beauties, Vol. XVII. p. 211.

‡ Gryffyd ap Llewellyn, Lord Lyttleton observes, paid some attention to naval concerns, and increased his maritime power by procuring from a foreign country, a few ships of war, manned with foreign sailors, for the purpose of importing corn, and protecting the coast. Life of Henry II.

quate to the supplies requisite to carry such a plan into execution. And little is heard respecting a navy in his reign.

It is true the original poem mentions, by one of those strong hyperboles, admissible only by poetic licence, the Menai, as not being in a state of ebb, during the battle, from the vast profusion of human gore; yet he also says, there was sufficient slaughter to glut the hungry *kites*: an intimation, that much of the conflict took place on land, as kites are not piscatory birds. Another bard describing the event, mentions the defeat of *three hundred ships of war*. Now nearly an equal number must have composed the victorious fleet, and how could so many ride in manœuvring positions on the part of the Menai, near Tal y voel; crowded as the channel is, with sand banks, dry at low water? The ships in question were doubtless transports, and as they are described sailing in three divisions, they might have made a descent in three different parts of the island, and then combined their forces.

Allowing, therefore, the authority of this document, it affords no conclusive proof, that the sanguinary conflict was not decided on *land*. Respecting the identical spot, little further than traditional evidence can be adduced. The name of the one, assigned for it on such grounds, furnishes us no assistance, as it simply means a *morassy plain, where warfare was waged, or a battle fought*. Its adjacency, however, to Traeth coch or Rhedwarf bay, gives to the supposition additional probability. This part of the coast was the most vulnerable from natural circumstances, it is more sheltered than other parts of the island; and the low flat sandy shores afforded great facilities to an invading enemy to strand his vessels and disembark his troops. A corroborative circumstance, also is, that the Danes, the Manks, the Irish, and other marauders, who used to disturb and plunder Anglesea, generally made their principal landing somewhere in this vicinity.

After all, Gwalchmai appears to have combined in his poem several great battles, fought by Owen Gwynedd, and described them as one event. “Three legions the vessels of the torrent

brought, three grand and first of fleets, bent on quick assault. One from the west green isle; another teeming with armed ones of the men of Llochlin, long burdens of the flood; the third over the sea from Normandy with mighty bustle came, and unpropitious fate.” The first evidently alludes to a defeat of an army of Irish invaders; the second to an incursion of an hostile party of Manks, and the third to a desperate attempt made by the English in the time of Henry the second, to subjugate the island. But it is, and must be matter of conjecture: and sagacious conjecture, founded on probable evidence, resulting from the combination of the few facts, of which we have certain knowledge, can alone be expected, where an interval of many centuries, obstructs our enquiries. On a disputed point of so much importance in an historic point of view, it would be presumptuous on the very scanty, and these poetic, documents, peremptorily to decide. The reader will make his own election, and permission is given him so to do. “*Utrum horum mavis accipe.*”

LLANIDAN, the patron saint of whose church was St. *Idan* or *Aidan**, once belonged to the convent of Beddgelert in Caernarvonshire, and is visited for two curiosities, one, what has been termed “a *reliquary*,” or rather a sepulchral vase, consisting of a vessel, formed out of common gritstone, and having a roof-shaped lid, or cover. This is supposed by some to have been the depository of a part of Idan’s remains, or of reliques formerly belonging to the church. But it more probably was an ancient baptismal *font*, and the rudeness of the shape bespeaks its high antiquity. The other is the stone, previously mentioned†, as noticed by Giraldus, called *Maen Morddwyd*, now included within the church wall.

PLAS

* This is one, amidst the multiplicity of British saints, whose pedigree Mr. Owen could not trace. Quære, was it not the pious Aiden, for *saint* was in that age a term equipollent with the epithet *pious* in this, whose character the venerable Bede so highly extols, in his life of St. Cuthbert: and from whose remains the church of Durham is said to have obtained possession of the head, teeth, appendant cross, and two griffin’s eggs?

† Beauties, Vol. XVII. p. 151.

PLAS LLANIDAN, a seat formerly belonging to the Right Hon. Lord Boston, is not peculiarly striking, as an architectural structure; but is finely situated on a rising wooded ground above the Menai, over which it has a commanding view to Caernarvon, and the mountainous range of Snowdon. This is at present the residence of *Owen Williams, Esq.*, one of the representatives in parliament for the borough of Great Marlow in the county of Bucks.

LLANIDAN, though not the original family seat of the *Williams's*, has been distinguished for having been the residence of a man, who from an obscure situation by dint of superior abilities, and indefatigable application to business, raised himself, not only to a distinguished situation, but an honourable station in society. The late Mr. THOMAS WILLIAMS, was born in Anglesea. The limits of this work will not allow going into a detail of his birth, and education. After having been the accustomed time with an attorney at Beaumaris, he practised the law, in which he distinguished himself for some years by his legal acumen and general activity; particularly in the management of electioneering business. This introduced him to an acquaintance with several noble and distinguished characters, and by their patronage he obtained the lucrative situation of manager to the Parys-mountain mines; the joint property of Lord Uxbridge, and the Rev. Mr. Hughes: and subsequently was admitted to a considerable partnership concern, with the latter proprietor. To that event, perhaps in a great degree, maybe attributed the success of a concern, which had proved an unfortunate speculation to the former lessees. In a very few years after Mr. Williams had undertaken the management, the quantity of copper raised, amounted to about four thousand tons per annum. For the disposal of this immense mineral treasure, a number of subordinate companies of smelters, refiners, and manufacturers, were formed at Holywell, Swansea, Ravenhead, Birmingham, Marlow, and Wraysbury; at the same time warehouses, for the sale of copper, were opened at Liverpool, Bristol, and London. These concerns

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formed

formed together a business of unusual magnitude, comprising a variety of heterogeneous interests, involving a fluctuating property of, at least, a million sterling; upon the realization of which, numbers of opulent men were seriously implicated, and thousands depended for their daily subsistence. Over these Mr. Williams presided, was sole director; and perhaps in such a complicated, and responsible concern, where one person had the exclusive direction; never was an equally arduous duty, so ably and judiciously performed. But trade, like ambition, brooks no rival; when, confined to a few hands, it stretches its gigantic strides over the commercial globe, and prefers its claim to universal monopoly. The immense produce of Parys mountain exceeded the whole aggregate quantity of all the other copper mines in the kingdom; which made such an impression on the markets, that for several years, a contest was carried on between Mr. W. and the Cornish miners, that had nearly proved fatal to the mining interest of the West of England. The Island companies were able considerably to under sell the Cornish. For though the ores of Anglesea were much poorer, that is, less productive in metal, than those of Cornwall; yet, lying nearer the surface, they were raised at a much smaller expence. A serious competition now ensued; which should be excluded the benefit of a market! This terminated in a coalition between the contending parties, highly advantageous to both, but detrimental to the general interests of those manufactures, where copper formed an essential requisite: particularly in those multifarious branches of metalline articles, which constituted the principal trade of a place, emphatically styled, the "Toy shop of Europe." This occasioned an application to Parliament, in behalf of Birmingham, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, and other towns, affected by the dangerous combination. *The copper bill* was accordingly brought in, for regulating the importation and exportation, and read a first time. Mean while a committee had been appointed to examine into the state of the petitioning trade. One of the members, on the order of the day, being moved by Lord Hawkes-

bury, for the second reading of the bill, observed, “ he was convinced, the manufacturers required the protection of the Legislature.” Upon the same occasion also, Mr. Pitt strongly animadverted on the dangerous tendency of such a monopoly, as the bill was intended to prevent. For he said, “ notwithstanding the previous attention of parliament to the subject, copper had advanced from the enormous price of 113*l.* per ton in the ore, which was the average price of the last six months, stated in evidence to the committee, to the still more enormous price of 128*l.* per ton, as appeared by a ticketing paper he had seen this morning : and that there could be no pretence set up, to justify this rise, from any advance in the price of materials, or labour, during that period. An honourable gentlemen had said, that the rise was owing to a fair competition in the market ; but he had reason to understand, that nearly the whole command of the article had got into *one hand* ; and that notwithstanding, there was an appearance of *public* bidding, that one company, in which an *honourable member of that house* was largely concerned, had lately purchased the greatest part of the ores ; and that a species of monopoly appeared to exist, which it was his determination to resist—and to put the *copper trade*, so essential to our marine, and to our manufactures, on the footing of the corn and other trades, which had been regulated by Parliament.” From the report however of a committee, appointed to examine into the state of the copper trade, it appeared, that the mining business at the then standard was at a low ebb, that some concerns yielded no profit, and that on the mine, called, *North Downs*, there has been an actual loss. The Cornish, Anglesea, and other interests united to oppose the measure, and the bill was lost for that sessions.

Not obtaining from the wisdom of parliament the wished for redress, a number of spirited individuals associated together, under the firm of the “ Birmingham copper mining company,” who purchased mines in Cornwall, and erected smelting houses in the vicinage of Swansea, Southwales, and were thus enabled to supply the demands of the manufacturers, at moderate and

regulated prices. This bold adventure succeeding, quashed the monopoly; the partnership between the two concerns was dissolved; the price of copper found its proper level in the market; and to the Anglesea proprietors the subsequent acquisitions have since been proportional to the wisdom and energy displayed in their measures. By natural endowments, and constitutional habits, Mr. W. was well qualified for conducting large and intricate concerns. Indefatigable in his attention to business, penetrating in his judgment, pertinacious in his views, and decisive in his measures, he lost little time, balancing different opinions, as to their eligibility; and still less in carrying them into effect. His promptitude in all the plans he adopted, was only equalled, by the discernment, which he discovered in the choice of characters adapted for their execution. His unremitting labours were most amply rewarded; for, it is said, he had accumulated an immense sum, leaving behind him a most splendid fortune, amounting to nearly half a million sterling. Mr. W's. landed possessions were considerable, and he had no less than five country seats—One at Temple, one at Horton, one at Wraysbury, one at Marl, and another at Llanidan. For an asthmatic complaint, with which he had been long afflicted, he was persuaded to retire from his arduous avocations, and to take the benefit of the Bath waters: he resided a short time in Bath, where he died Nov. 30, 1801, at the age of 66. He was interred at Llanidan with those demonstrations of respect from his friends, which were justly due to the memory of a person, by whose genius and activity some had been enriched, and all had been benefitted.

Porthamel, or *Porth-amwyll*, the gloomy ferry, so called from the dense woods, which anciently darkened the shore, is famous for being the place where Suetonius landed, when he finally extinguished Druidical domination. The infantry were landed by means of flat-bottomed vessels, near *Pwll y ffurwch*, where a low place on the beach retains to the present time the denomination of *Pant yr yscraphie*, or the boat-hollow: the Romans calling the boats, by which they put their soldiers on shore.

shore, *scaphæ*;* whence the Welsh *yscraphie* is evidently derived. The horse followed below, at the *ford*, having been taught by some British auxiliaries, to swim it, according to the custom of the country.† A tumulus in an adjacent field, Mr. Rowlands supposed, was the holocaustic place, where the terrified Druids took up firebrands, and brandished them, like so many furies, about the exterminating army; and where the infatuated multitude were committed to the devouring flames in their own sacrificial fires. On the top of *Gwydryn* hill is a fortified post, called *Caer Idris*, of a semi-circular shape, guarded by a triple foss and vallum, with each end terminating in a precipice. From the name and figure, it was, an original British post, and on this occasion probably occupied by the Romans.

LLANEDWEN is notable as having given birth to the able learned antiquary, and divine, the REV. HENRY ROWLANDS, who was born in the year 1655, at *Plus gwyn* in this parish, an estate, purchased by his ancestor Henry Rowlands, who died bishop of Bangor, A. D. 1616; and still remains the patrimony of the family. He was bred at Oxford, took orders, and was instituted to the vicarage of Llanidan with the annexed chapels, in October 1690; died in the year 1723, and interred in the south part of this church. A black marble slab erected to his memory, contains the following modest and pious inscription, evidently composed by himself for the purpose.

“ M. S.
Depositum
HENRICI ROWLANDS
de Plâs Gwyn, Clerici,
Hujus Ecclesiæ Vicarii;
Qui hinc cum hisce Exuviis,
Per spiritum Jesu,
Animam interea refocillantem,

in

* Hence the English term, *skiff*, for a small boat, or one that draws but little water.

† “ Quibus nota vada et patrius nandi usus.”

in ultima die
 se fore resuscitatum
 Pia fide sperabat :
 Ac inde
 TRIUMPHANTE MISERICORDIA
 In eternum cum Christo gaudium.
 Fore susceptum,
 Quod maxime anhelabat ;
 id est
 Esse semper cum Domino.
 Obiit 21 die Novembris
 Anno Salutis 1773
 Ætatis suæ 63
 Spiritus ubi vult spirat.
 Laus tota Tri-Uni
 Omnia pro nihilo nisi quæ tribuebat egenis,
 Ista valent cum artes pereant & scripta fatiscant."

His principal work, exclusive of some unpublished manuscripts, is the "*Mona Antiqua Restorata*, or an archæological discourse on the Antiquities, natural and historical, of the Isle of Anglesea." Though in this treatise he has been charged with being partial to a favourite system, of too much locality in his views, of pseudo-criticism, and fanciful etymology* ; yet his illustrative account of the antiquities of this part of the island, is a most extraordinary performance : more especially, when it is considered, that he never enjoyed any further literary advantages, than what perhaps were derived from the confined limits of his native isle.

Moel y don, or the hill of the wave, is one of the usual ferries over the Menai ; and the one by which the invading Roman forces under Agricola entered the island, and where the army of Edward the first, in the year 1282, met with a signal defeat. The disaster is said by the Welsh historian, to have happened in this manner. The king having landed his men on the Anglesea shore, and reduced some of the inhabitants to obedience, who had neglected, or refused, to take the oath of fealty to the crown

* Cambrian Register for 1795, p. 381.

crown of England, built a bridge of boats, across the Menai, near this spot; in order to keep up a communication between his armies on both sides the straits: and to pour in fresh troops for completing the conquest of the island. The Welsh, aware of his designs, threw up entrenchments to defend the passes into the hills. The bridge was nearly finished, except the flooring, when Luke de Tany, a brave commander, who had lately arrived with a number of Gascon and Spanish troops, to reinforce the English army, impatient of delay, passed over the unfinished bridge at low water; no enemy at that time making the least hostile appearance. But, on the flowing tide cutting off the access to the bridge, the Welsh, who had lain in an ambush, suddenly rushed forth with hideous shouts; and by the suddenness of their irruption, and the impetuosity of their onset, cast a panic among their opponents; slew numbers, and forced the remainder into the sea. Among those, who perished on this occasion, were Luke de Tany, Roger Clifford, thirteen knights, seventeen gentlemen, and two hundred soldiers. Sir William Latimer, of the officers, was the only one who escaped: and he owed his safety to his horse swimming with him to the end of the bridge.

At a small distance from this place is a field, still denominated *Maes-mawr-gad*, the plain of the great army. This has been described as the spot, where the Roman troops fought the sanguinary battle, mentioned by Tacitus. Some however suppose, that the appellation alludes to a desperate engagement here, in the year 1802, between *Gruffyd ap Cynan*, king of Gwynedd, and the usurper *Trahaiarn ap Caradog*, in which the latter was killed, and the former obtained repossession of the throne.

PLAS NEWYDD formerly the seat of *Sir Nicholas Bayley*, but now of *Earl of Uxbridge*, lies near the banks of the Menai, in a portion of those groves once so venerated by Britons, when the island attained the appellation of *Inys Dywyll*. It stands upon a site of a house, belonging to the celebrated *Gwenllian*, a descendant of *Cadrod Hardd*. The present mansion is an elegant modern structure, and perhaps without exception, when

the situation and the adaptation of the building to it, are conjointly taken, it exhibits, in a noble residence, though on a confined scale, as great a display of judicious taste, as any in the united kingdom. The front is composed of a centre, and two wings, the former nearly semilunar, and the latter semioctagonal. At each angle of the sides of the centre and wings, an octagonal turret rises from the basement, above the embattled parapet several feet, terminating in a small spire, surmounted with a gilded vane. The height is three stories, the windows plain sashed parallelograms, having square reverted labels; except the lower stories in which they comprise three lights, with mullions, tracery, and lozenged glass. The front is still further extended by an elegant gothicised servants hall, over which is a chapel on nearly a similar plan. The whole presents an elegant coup d'oeil, and manifests a great degree of chasteness in architectural design. The interior and the exterior correspond; an uniformity not usually found, either in the finishing, or decorating modern mansions. *The entrance hall* on the north side of the building is lofty, but from its gothic doors, niches, and other recesses with pointed arches, has been taken for a chapel. In front of the entrance is a colonade, enriched with tabernacle work, over which a passage forms a communication with the different apartments: the whole is lighted by a flat lantern dome. On the left of this elegant vestibule is the *dining hall*, very extensive and lofty, having five large lancet-shaped windows on one side, and an elegant groined roof. Several family and other paintings adorn the walls of this room. Among other portraits, *Lady Bayley*, mother of the present Earl of Uxbridge; the first Lord Paget of the present family; Lord Paget, standing by his charger in his uniform; his lady with her infant daughter; Lady Caroline Capel with an infant in her arms, and a crib by her side. These last two are finely conceived, and exquisitely finished; but to expatiate on their merits, would appear like sounding a trump for the artists, whose fame stands too high to need it. Henry Earl of Holland in the costume of the time, and the queen of Charles the first. The last two are by *Vandyck*. *The drawing room* in the centre of
the

the front is lined with painted silk, the angles burnished gold, and the furniture appropriate. The parlours, billiard and anti-rooms correspond in neatness, and the *library*, though not well stocked, is handsomely finished. The upper apartments, particularly, the state bed and octagon sitting rooms are spacious, and neatly decorated. *The chapel* not quite finished, a long and lofty building over the servants hall, has three large pointed windows on each side with stained glass, and a finely groined and fretted roof. The altar at the east end is highly ornamented with tabernacle work, has a receding canopy, and on each side the entrance, at the west end, are two enriched stalls for the chaplains, over which is a very handsome organ loft. The principal staircase is of stone, wide and lofty, the different corridors equally elegant and convenient; and the private spiral geometrical staircase unique. The whole, which is built of marble from the quarries of Moelfra, near Redwharf-bay, both in the plan and execution reflects great credit on the scientific architect, *Mr. Potter, of Litchfield*: and evinces much judgment and taste in the noble owner; for it is well designed, chaste in the ornaments, and dignified in the effect. The house, as seen from the water, rising out of a dense wood, consisting chiefly of venerable oaks and umbrageous ash trees, which cover the elevated ground behind, and form charming back and side screens, assumes an imposing appearance. A parapeted bastion-wall, built as a sea defence, along which runs a handsome terrace in front of the sloping lawn, together with the sea baths on the left, and an elegant greenhouse, emerging from the trees on the right; add considerably to the fascinating effect. The woods extend for some distance along the shore, which on that part of the straits is very bold; the boundary being perpendicular calcareous cliffs, composed of red and white limestone of an excellent quality. These on the properties adjoining the Plas Newydd estate, are quarried, and numerous vessels constantly anchored along side, to carry this useful article to different parts of the Welsh coast, for building and agricultural purposes. The prospect from the windows is picturesque

turesque and extensive. The views both up and down the magnificent and river-like Menai, are extremely fine. The opposite shores are well wooded, beautifully interspersed with gentlemen's seats, and highly cultivated spots; beyond soar a long range of the Snowdonian alps, intermingling their varied summits with the clouds. The scenes from hence, though partially existing in the same district, are as different, as can well be imagined, from those which delight the beholder at Baron Hill.

The *Stables*, built in the same style with the house, stand at a convenient distance, and except the front, are veiled from the view by a lofty grove. The fascade comprises a centre, in which is a large entrance gateway, with a pointed arch; and in the side wings are two very large pointed windows, ornamented with mullions and tracery. The angles of the building are flanked with octangular buttresses, rising in turrets above the parapet. The whole is elegant, spacious and convenient.

The *park* is not very extensive, yet from being so well clothed with antiquated woods, and modern plantations, and having the rides and walks tastefully laid out; exhibits very considerable diversity. At a small distance from the house are two *Cromlechs* standing contiguous to each other; one of which is said to be the largest monument of the kind, subsisting in the kingdom. The principal of these consists of an inclined table stone, about thirteen feet long, above eleven broad, and four thick. This is supported six feet from the ground, by six upright stones; four at the broadest end to the north-east; and two at the south-west end; two other intermediate stones have fallen, and still lie beneath: originally, therefore, it appears to have had eight supporters. The smaller cromlech, barely separated from the larger, is nearly seven feet long, by five broad, and three thick; resting upon four uprights; and a fifth has fallen.* These are overhung by the branches of an immensely large

* The number of supporters to these monuments seems merely incidental, and to have depended, at the time of their erection, upon the form, or size of the incumbent stone.

large ash tree, whose waving branches and spreading foliage, bending towards the east, forms an elegant canopy ; another close by, leans the same way ; and the group, including collateral shrubs, the house, the water, and the mountains peeping through a vista in the back ground, form a most delightful picture.

Here the traveller is reminded, that he enters on " classic," or rather on Celtico-sacred ground. This and the adjacent parishes abound with the remains of the consecrated groves, circles, altars, and monumental stones, vestiges of the Bardic system, and rude memorials of the religious faith and superstitious rites, practised by our forefathers in the most early period of our history. The parishes of Llanedwen, Llanddeiniel, and Llanidan, include a district, which, Mr. Rowlands attempts to prove, was the principal seat of the Druidical worship, and contained the residence of the arch and presiding Druid. Near a path, leading into the road from Plas Newydd, is a large *Carnedd*, now grown over with grass. Curiosity, about seventy or eighty years ago, induced Sir Nicholas Bayley to have it opened. A large upper stone, covered a low entrance into a subterraneous recess about four feet in diameter, and of an equal height, which led to a vault, containing human bones ; and two other lateral stones apparently opened into similar cavities. This is generally supposed to have had a connection with the Cromlech. Some conjecture, it was a place of sepulture for the Druids ; but Mr. Pennant thinks it might have been a place of confinement for the wretched victims, destined to be sacrificed.*

On viewing this, and similar monuments set up, as their uncouth form implies, in the rude ages of the world, the antiquarian is led to enquire, as to the time and occasion of their erection, while the experimental and mechanical philosopher will be casting about in his mind, by what means bodies of such magnitude were raised into their present situation, by a people, whom he has been led to suppose, were unacquainted with the application

* Tour in Wales, Vol. I. p. 21.

cation of the grand *mechanic* powers ; the knowledge of which, he conceives, commensurate with its extent, constitutes the difference between savage and civilized life. And certainly, on consideration, this does appear a subject for conjecture. Taking the measurement of the table stone of this Cromlech at twelve feet both ways, and four feet thick, and allowing one ounce and a half for each cubic inch, the whole weight of the incumbent will be upwards of *seven tons*. And many Druidical monuments far exceed this in size and ponderosity. The powers of the lever and inclined plane, perhaps, were among the first things understood by mankind in the art of building, and of this knowledge, doubtless our British ancestors availed themselves, in erecting their monumental and religious structures. Mr. Rowlands has subjoined, to numerous other observations on the subject, the following mechanical demonstration of the raising and erecting some of our largest stone monuments, by the application of these powers. “ In order to erect those prodigious monuments, we may imagine they chose, where they found, or made, where such were not ready to their hands, small aggeres, or mounts of firm and solid earth, for an inclined plane, flatted and levelled at top ; up the sloping sides of which, they might with great wooden levers upon fixed fulcriments, and with balances at the end of them, to receive into them proportionable weights and counterpoises, and with hands enough to guide and manage the engines : I say, they might that way, by little and little, heave and roll up those stones they intended to erect, to the top of the hillock ; where laying them along, they might dig holes in that earth, at the end of every stone, intended for a column or supporter, the depth of which holes were to be equal to the length of the stones ; and then (which was easily done) let slip the stones into these holes straight on end ; which stones so sunk, and well closed about with earth, and the tops of them appearing level to the top of the mount, on which the other flat stones lay ; it was only placing those incumbent flat stones upon the tops of the supporters, duly poised and fastened, and taking away the earth from between them almost to the

bottom of the supporters ; then there appeared what we now call Stonehenge, Rollrick, and our Cromlech ; and where they lay no incumbent stones, our standing columns and pillars.*”

This is certainly an ingenious mode of accounting for the method of erecting such monuments, and is as feasible as many theoretic opinions, which have obtained general and implicit credit. But the mechanical powers were early known to the nations of the *East*, and the prodigies, performed by them in remote periods, have been justly the wonder of succeeding ages. Whether, therefore, the Britons were an immediate colony from that quarter, who emigrated by sea, or the offspring of a people, who through many generations, had been moving westward ; certain it is, that they would bring with them a portion of the arts, if not of the sciences also.

In the various townships or hamlets in the vicinity, are numerous monuments, or vestiges of monuments indicative of Druidical worship. At *Bodowyr* is a remarkable cromlech, the table-stone of which, resting upon three strong supporters, is seven feet long, six broad, and six feet thick ; the shape is that of a *truncated cone*. Remains of a circle of stones, and a *carnedd*, were once visible near it, but the stones have long been removed for the purposes of building. At *Tref-wry* are some faint traces of stone circles, so covered with weeds, and brambles, as to bid defiance to a person ascertaining their form or number. At *Tan ben Ceren* on the river Breint, are two large quadrangles, lying almost contiguous. *Caerleb* or the moated intrenchment, is of a square form, having a double foss and vallum, and within foundations of angular and circular buildings. Numerous other vestiges might possibly be discovered by a careful and patient exploratory investigation, Yet these appear to have been only the outworks of the grand seat of the arch druid at *Tre'r Dryw*. “ Here,” observes Mr. Pennant, “ I met with the mutilated remains, described by Mr. Rowlands. His *Bryn Gwyn*, *Brein Gwyn*, or Royal tribunal, is a circular hollow of an hundred and eighty feet in diameter, surrounded by an immense agger of earth and stones, evidently brought from

* *Mona Antiqua*, p. 95.

from some other place, there not being any mark of their being taken from the spot. It has only a single entrance. This is supposed to have been the grand consistory of the Druidical administration. Not far from it was one of the *Gorseddau*, now in a manner dispersed, but once consisting of a great copped heap of stones, on which sate aloft, a Druid instructing the surrounding people, *Multa de Deorum immortalium vi et potestate disputare et juventute, tradunt.*† Here are also the reliques of a circle of stones, with the *cromlech* in the midst, but all extremely imperfect. Two of the stones are very large; one which serves at present as part of the end of a house, is twelve feet, seven inches high, and eight feet broad; and another eight high, and twenty-three feet in girth. Some lesser stones also remain. This circle, when complete was one of the temples of the Druids, in which their religious rites were performed. It is the conjecture of Mr. Rowlands, that the whole of these remains were surrounded with a circle of *oaks*, and formed a deep and sacred grove. *Jam per se roborum elegunt lucos, neque ulla sacra sine ea fronde conficiunt.*”†

Here in the midst of this hallowed space, surrounded by its dark gloomy sheltering grove, secluding from all vulgar hearing, the mystical doctrines of Bardism, and from all unhallowed sight the profound mystic ceremonies and sanguinary rites of their religion; the mind, forced back by the vestiges before it, to a retrospective view of past ages, is enveloped in historic clouds, and, hurried by the power of reminiscence, becomes wrapped in scenes of other times. It pictures to itself the archpræsul, with his attendant Druids, first commencing the solemn carnival, by the previous preparatory ceremonies; such as cutting the *Pren awyr*, or sacred misletoe with a golden consecrated hook, received on the *sagum* or white vest, and then carefully laid up, as Jove's best, and inestimable gift to man, discoursing to the candidates for initiation, from the *carnedd*, on the perfection

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* Cæsar. Bel- Gal. Lib. VI.

† Plin. Hist. Nat. Lib. XV. c. 44. Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 10.

tion and power of the immortal Gods, delegated to them, as his representatives; performing aurspices and divination by means of the mystic circles; engaging to secrecy by administering the eternal oaths at the upright columns, or stones of swearing; afterwards bringing up the victims to the cromlechs, or altars; and descanting on the retaliating justice of deity---that for the life of man nothing but the death of another, offered up as a sacrifice, could appease the wrath of the immortal Gods; make due atonement for the evils committed, or avert the threatened punishment. The sacrificial fires kindled, and the instruments prepared, the deprecatory prayers offered up, and incantations made; it sees the feast begun.

“ What direful rites these gloomy haunts disgrace,
 Bane of the mind, and shame of man’s high race !
 ’Twas deem’d, the circles of the waving wand,
 The mystic figures, and the muttering band,
 Held o’er all natures works as powerful sway
 As the great Lord and maker of the day.
 Rocks, by infernal spells and Magic prayer,
 Shook from their base, und trembled high in air;
 The blasted stars their fading light withdrew;
 The labouring moon shed down a baleful dew;
 Spirits of hell aerial dances led;
 And rifled graves gave up the pale cold dead.
 Imperial man, creation’s Lord and Pride,
 To crown the sacrificial honors, died :
 That Hesus, direly pleased in joyous mood,
 Might flesh their swords, and glut their scythes with blood;
 And Taranis, amidst his tempests, smile,
 And roll innocuous thunders o’er their isle.”*

LLANFAIR PWLL-GWYNGYLL.* In this parish near the shore, on a rocky eminence, is the site of an ancient British fortification, called *Craig y ddinas*, opposite to which, in the straits, are those terrible

* Richards’s Aboriginal Britons, page 16.

† This is one of the few parishes in Anglesea, that has received its appellation

terrible obstacles to mariners, the *Swelly rocks*. Many of these, at low water, are visible, and the channel for a considerable space appears covered with a continued series of black and horrible breakers. When the more depressed rocks are covered with water, owing to the sea running with great rapidity between them, and by the narrowness of the channels with the opposition of the rocks, numerous vortices, or strong eddies are formed; and at those times the fury of the tide amongst them is inconceivable, except to the navigators, who often find it extremely difficult to avoid the impending danger. If the wind blows directly across the channel, it then becomes necessary in "shooting this gulph," as it may be well termed, to row the smaller, and tow the larger vessels through; lest in tackling, before they are able to get round, they should be caught in one of these eddies, and thrown upon the rocks. This, in spite of every precaution used, will sometimes happen, and in that case, the vessels only are saved by a strong current, setting in from a different direction, round those rocks, still pre-eminent above the flood. This counteraction giving time for the seamen to prepare for the next tack. "I when very young, ventured myself in a small boat during its greatest rage, and never shall forget the rapid evolutions between rock and rock, amidst the boiling waves and mill race current."† Indeed the

pellation from local circumstances, and not from some patron saint; and much critical acumen has been displayed, in attempting to furnish a probable derivation. It has been supposed the distinguishing epithet comes from *Pwll* a dool, *gwing* to wriggle, and *hyll* hideous, that is, a hideous-wriggling-pool, allusive to the opposite whirlpool in the Menai. There cannot exist a doubt, that the place received the name from the assigned circumstance: but by the above-mentioned etymology it must be first changed to *Pwllgwinghyll*. The like difficulty attends four others, which have been adduced. Might not the following be a more probable conjecture, *Pwll* a pool-gwyn rage, and *gwyll* dark, or gloomy, that is, the gloomy-raging-pool; or admitting at the end of the word *gwyllt* rapid, it will be rapid-raging-pool, strongly expressive of *Pwll Ceris*, opposite the shore? See a letter in the North Wales Gazette of Nov. 1, 1810, by CYFIACHYDD.

* Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. III. p. 23.

the violent swells, and the bursting ebullitions in some places, the furious run of tide in others, the roaring noise of the waters, occasioned by the submerged breakers, the dashing of the foam and spray in the vortices, against the uncovered and exposed rocks, with the din and turbulence around ; is at certain times of flood and ebb, of such a kind, as to baffle all description to convey any adequate idea, either of the appearances they exhibit, or the sensations they excite. At high water the terrific scene completely disappears; the aquatic tumult ceases, all is hushed ; and this previously alarming sea, assumes an equal semblance of safe passage, with the other parts of the Menai. This furious current between, what are considered the *Scylla* and *Charybdis* of the Welsh mariners, is denominated *Pwll Ceris*; and presents a formidable obstacle to the navigation of large vessels, which are under the necessity of watching the critical season for passing, and taking on board experienced pilots.

LLANDYSSILIO. The small church of this parish is curiously situated on a small rocky peninsula, jutting into the sea. This at high water forms a small island, called *Ben Glas*, comprising a few acres of land, that afford pasturage for sheep : a causeway joins it to the opposite beach ; but is only passable at ebb-tide. It is a circumstance almost peculiar to Anglesea, as Mr. Pennant remarks, “ that most of the seventy-four parishes which this island is divided into, have their churches not remote from the shore.” Some of them are so situated, that they are obliged to adapt the time of divine service to the state of the tide. And instances occasionally occur, where the minister is obliged to dismiss the congregation, long before the service is properly concluded. This is exemplified in the church of *Llangwyfan*, on the western side of the island ; as well as in this of Llandyssilio. When the wind blows smartly in the direction of the tide, the latter will set in earlier than expected. What, on such occasions must be the feelings of both minister and congregation ? The struggle to escape, before they are hemmed in by the surrounding water, must occasion a scene, too indecorous to be compatible with the sacred duties of public worship, and the previ-

ous apprehension of its necessity, is little consistent with the nature of devotion.

Here, the mind, awake to feelings of independence, and sensible of the blessings of that freedom, acknowledged and secured by the present constitution of Britain, will at this spot pause, to take a retrospective view of ages past; and while it recognizes in the code of ancient Welsh jurisprudence, a legislative system, usually considered as having been introduced at the Norman conquest, be inclined to say,

“ The Muse here shudders at the feudal plan,
That gave to man a *property* in man,
Contrast the periods past, the present day,
And pours to Heaven the glad and grateful lay.” LLOYD.

Mr. Rowlands, in making a distinction between the two kinds of villains under the ancient laws, whom he distinguishes into two classes, *free* and *pure natives*, supposes the difference to be this; that the former possessed some degree of freedom, might buy and sell, go where they pleased, &c. while the latter were the peculium of their proprietary lords or princes, and disposable ad libitum. He also observes, “ that he met with an extract of a deed, contained in a book of Sir William Gryffyth,” where the natives of this township, centuries subsequent to the appointment of princes of Wales, from the royal family of England, were *sold* as an appendage of such estate to which the lands belonged. “ I have by me,” he says, “ a copy of injunction, issued out by Henry the seventh, king of England, commanding escheators and all other ministerial officers, to see that the king’s native tenants kept within their proper limits; and if any of them were found to stray, and wander from their home, to drive them back, like beasts to their pinfolds, with the greatest severity.*

Among the boons bestowed upon the corporation of Beaumaris, so late even as the fourth year of Elizabeth’s reign, the following

* *Mona Antiqua*. p. 122.

lowing grant appears among other privileges. "All and singular the king's lands, tenements, and hereditaments in *Bodineu*, and his villagers (cultivators) in the same town, if any be, with their *offspring*." But this was probably no more than an exemplification of a grant, made long before, by way of confirmation.

The following is one, out of three documents, adduced by Mr. Rowlands, "Ednyfed Vychan ap Edynfed, alius dictus Ednyfed ap Arthelw oz Davydd ap Gruffyd et Howel ap Davydd ap Ryryd, alias dictus Howel ap Arthelw uz Davydd ap Gryffydd, Liberi tenentes Dni. Regis villae de Rhandir Gadog. &c. dedimus et confirmavimus Willimo ap Gryffydd ap Gwilim armigero et libero tenenti de Porthamel, &c. septem nativos nostros; viz. Howel ap Davydd Dew, Matto ap Davydd Dew, Jevan ap Evan Ddu, Llewelyn ap Davydd Dew, Davydd ap Matto ap Davydd Dew, Howel ap Matto ap Davydd Dew, et Llewelyn ap Evan Coke, cum eorum sequelis tum procreatis tam procreandis ac omnibus bonis catellis, &c. habend. &c. praedictos nativos nostros, &c. praefato Willimo Gruffyd ap Gwilim heredibus et assignatus suis in perpetuum. Datum apud Rhandir Gadog, 20 die Junii, an. Henr. 6ti 27mo*." This is a strong instance of the tenacious nature of despotism, and demonstrates how difficult it is, to abolish customs, however unjust, or absurd, when once they have been established by long and general usage: especially when, like those of *vassalage*†, they have tended to exalt one part of the human species to an enviable height above the other.

GORPHWYSFA, a handsome modern mansion, erected a few years since, and pleasantly situated on an eminence above Porthaethwy, commanding delightful views, is the occasional residence of *Lord Lucan*.

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Porthaethwy

* Manuscript History of Anglesea.

† A remnant of this part of the feudal system still customarily remains in the western parts of England; where if some estates are sold, or let, an usual condition is, to take all the apprentices upon them, male and female. This is an evident, though laggering proof of *persons being attached to the soil*.

Porthuethwy, or *Porthaeddwy*, is the most frequented ferry, and the passing and repassing of horses, carriages, people, and cattle, is prodigiously great. Proper boats, for the accommodation of all, except the latter description of passengers, are provided, and in constant readiness. But these are obliged to make their way on an element to which, previously they had never been accustomed, and, from their dreadful bellowings, when necessitated to take the water, evidently strikes them with most painful terror. The scene here, after a large fair in the island, is unique; and to those who can divest themselves of sympathetic feeling for the sufferings of brute animals, it must furnish considerable amusement. The bullocks are driven into the sea, and pursued by the drovers, till having lost footing they are compelled to swim, a novel exertion for the poor affrighted beasts, which they evince by plunging and turning in all directions their wistful eyes towards the land. Persons in boats attend on each side, goading them forward, and endeavouring to keep them in a direct line for the opposite shore. Some, however, at the commencement of the voyage, elude the vigilance of their aquatic drivers, and borne along by the violence of the tide, make good a landing on the wrong side: frequently at a considerable distance from the place of departure, to the no small discomfiture of those, appointed to guard at the point of embarkation. When hundreds of these animals have been thus unnaturally impelled to put their lives in jeopardy on the boisterous waves, and have at length arrived on the other side of the Menai, the scene becomes still more distressing to the compassionate beholder. Some are so exhausted with the exertions they have been forced to use, for bearing up against the tumultuous element, that every attempt at standing proves abortive, consequently they obtain a temporary respite. Others, who in the first instance turned restive, seldom fail to receive severe retaliation: the remaining number appear from their gestures more like wild, than domesticated beasts; and the whole composes a sight at which humanity shudders. Could no other plan be devised for sending these cattle to England? no method
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of comportsation be adopted? The cattle from South Wales are conveyed over the Newpassage in Monmouthshire, by proper boats; and why not those of Anglesea? The evil it is hoped will soon be removed, by a

BRIDGE OVER THE MENAI STRAITS. The obstacles presented to the traveller by the arm of the sea, called the Menai, when his way lies in this direction, have long been a subject of regret; and the delays and hinderances, occasioned by Bangor ferry, to the intercourse between England and Ireland, a matter of most serious importance: particularly since the political union of the two countries. Facility of communication between the central and remote parts of an empire, not only tends to promote the commercial interests; but to give energy to its power, and stability to its government. The scientific eye of mechanism had often looked at this passage, with a longing wistful ken, and in the fertility of its genius planned, and in imagination formed, a road across the tumultuous waves. The expediency of erecting a bridge over these straits at or near Bangor ferry, has long been in contemplation. For at a meeting of noblemen and gentlemen belonging to the principality, desirous of carrying such intended improvement into effect, held at the St. Alban's Tavern, London, April 29, 1785, it was resolved, "That the erecting a carriage bridge over the straits of Menai, will be of great public utility. That it appears from the reports and concurrent opinions of several able engineers, that the erecting a *timber* bridge upon *piles*, with three swivel bridges will not be detrimental to the navigation of the said streights, and therefore we approve of a bridge being erected upon that plan. That we will support the application, made to parliament for an act, for building a bridge across the said streights, agreeable to the above plan."

N. BAYLEY, Chairman.

These resolutions, however, were prevented being carried into effect by the influence of an opposite party, who felt, or pretended to feel, deeply interested; and whose property they

stated would not only be injured, if the scheme were executed ; but that the coasting trade of Wales, and other ports of the western part of Britain, would, by such an alteration, receive a most serious deterioration.

“ Here glow’d the patriot breast with public good,
And urg’d a wish to stem th’ obstructing flood,
Bade Genius form the potent pier, that braves
Impeding tempests, and th’ war of waves ;
Beheld the embryo arch, with fostering smile,
Entice the infant to the parent isle ;
But though the plan the wish of nations crown’d,
Fell Discord saw the blest design—and frown’d.”

LLOYD.

The grand scheme however does not appear to have been lost sight of; neither the island genius to have been asleep nor inattentive to its permanent interests. The business has been again submitted to the consideration of Parliament, and the report of a committee in that honourable house, printed by its order in 1810,* contains the following particulars. The Right Hon. Henry Foster in the chair. From the evidence adduced, it appears the spring-tides in the Menai rise about twenty feet, and run at the rate of four miles per hour;† but the motion of the current is greatly obstructed by the numerous rocks, interspersed about the whole bed; and the estual direction is consequently very various. Vessels navigating these straits, are under the necessity of passing at the time of tide, when the current is sufficiently strong, to carry them safely through the respective channels; and this they can only do about three hours and a half westward, and one and half eastward, during the flow of each tide; unless the wind should be favourable and blow with considerable strength. The phenomenon of these

* Entitled “ The second Report of the Committee on Holyhead Roads and Harbour.

† The tide near the swelly rocks, at full spring, runs from eight to nine knots an hour.

these tides is also of an unusual kind. At the full and change of the moon, it is high water at nine o'clock in the morning, on Caernarvon bar : and not till nearly half past ten at Beaumaris. Two tides set in from the western ocean, and are divided by the island of Anglesea; one part passing through the Menai straits, and the other through the great channel, or gut, lying between Holyhead, and the Irish coast. As the flow is more than an hour earlier at one of the before-mentioned places, than the other, it begins running through the strait from Caernarvon, while it is ebbing at Beaumaris; and consequently keeps falling for some time after the current has changed its direction. In a similar manner the ebb commences at Caernarvon, before it is flood at Beaumaris; and though the direction of the current is likewise in this case changed; yet it keeps rising at Bangor ferry, after it has ebbed a considerable space at Caernarvon. " These tides, a reporter to the committee states, divide, as nearly as I could observe, about Plas Newydd,* and flow about five hours, and ebb seven, at the Swelly rocks."† This remarkable difference arises from the influx of waters being impeded by Caernarvon bar, and the various rocks in the channel. Divers plans it seems had been submitted to those, interested in the removal of the difficulties, resulting from the ferry. On the former occasion three schemes were proposed. The erection of a wooden bridge; a stone ditto; and an embankment, for carrying the road across the straits. The first was objected to, as impracticable, or if not, as only forming a temporary structure, that would constantly want repairs, and in a short period renovation. The second was considered, as alike impracticable, or admitting the practicability of such a scheme, the enormous expence which must be incurred, would marr the proposed advantages of the undertaking. The third, met with the most powerful and decided opposition, especially from all the maritime interests of the western coasts of Britain; the complainants

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contending

* They separate near Beaumaris, at a place called *Tyraw point*.

† Appendix to the Report. p. 41.

contending, if such a plan were carried into effect, it would not only be exceedingly injurious to trade; but also, according to the reports of the most able engineers, most certainly ruin the harbour of Caernarvon. On the present occasion also, three plans were laid before the committee. First a bridge, to be erected at, or near Inys y Moch; having three arches, constructed of cast iron, and several others of stone; the estimate 262,500*l*. The second at, or near the same place; estimate 259,140*l*. “ The island of Inys y Moch, according to the statement of the report, is situated in the streight, at a small distance from the Anglesea shore: it is a solid limestone rock, nearly covered at high water, but at low water there is a good deal of it to be seen; and the rocky neck, that connects it with the main land of Anglesea, was quite dry at low water, 28th of August;* and the width of the strait between the island and the Caernarvon shore was four hundred and fifty feet; and its depth, for a considerable part of its breadth, was upwards of thirty-two feet. The shore on the north side is covered with gravel and large stones; but at no great depth below the surface it is rock.” The third at, and over the Swelly rocks, to consist of one expansive central arch of cast-iron, three hundred and fifty feet in the span, with two collateral ones of the same metal, of three hundred each; and the remaining accommodating arches to be of stone: the expence of building this, was estimated at 265,812*l*. The committee state, “ they approve this latter plan, given in by that able and scientific engineer, *Mr. John Rennie*, having one cast-iron arch of 350 feet in the span, and two of 300 ditto, and the rest, six on the Caernarvonshire, and sixteen on the Anglesea side, of stone. The foundations to be laid on the Swelly, Penlass, and Ynis Welltog, rocks. The distance here at low water, 29th of August, 1809, was from the Caernarvon shore, 170 feet to Swelly rock; between Swelly, and Penlass 240. But there are two rocks in the channel, which make their appearance at low water, and divide it into three.

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The spaces between Penlass and Ynys Welltog, is quite dry at low water, and from thence to the main land of Anglesea, there is only a creek, or inlet, which may, if judged proper, be entirely shut up—From the pier on the Caernarvonshire side of the channel, land arches are proposed, to extend to the distance of about two hundred yards, and from the pier on Ynis Welltog: the land arches are proposed to extend the distance of four hundred and thirty four yards into the island of Anglesea, making the whole length, one thousand and seventy six yards. The land arches on each side are proposed, to have winged walls at their termination, and embankments of earth, to form the approaches to the bridge; and the road way is proposed, to be thirty two feet of clear, within the parapets*.” The amended estimate for such a structure amounts to 290l, 417. This site, expediency has judged preferable to the one, previously selected at Inys y Moch, for the following reasons. Because the water here is wider, the land does not rise so rapidly on each side, and the rocks, previously alluded to, presenting, as it were, natural piers, would render the construction of a bridge at this place comparatively easy; and afford a better prospect of its permanent security. To show how little progress the spirit of patriotic improvement had made through the dark ages; and at the same time evince, what obstacles are opposed to the display of science, and the furtherance of useful projects, by the want of that grand stimulus to mental expansion, *freedom*, liberty of speech, and independency in action; it may be worthy of noticing; that Edward the first, having in his different military campaigns experienced the difficulties, occasioned by this fretum; expressed his intention to build a bridge of stone over the straits. The engineers, however, employed on the occasion, made an unfavourable report, as to the practicability of the scheme, “from the bottom being doubtful, and the sea, in the assigned place, assuming at certain times a raging and strong appearance:” but these objections to the hero of the crusade, and the conqueror of Wales, appeared contemptible;

* Second Report of the Committee, on Holyhead Roads and Harbour.

contemptible; and he determined to have his design executed. But from the inhabitants of the district of Arfôn, petitioning, and the king's attention being called off, by the Scottish war, the plan, worthy of such a monarch, was never carried into effect.

Previous to bidding a respectful adieu to the island, after admiring its numerous capabilities, and feeling highly gratified with the patriotic spirit, displayed by many of the principal landed proprietors, it would be an unpardonable omission not to notice a recent, and most accommodating improvement. By the munificence of Lord Bulkeley, an excellent carriage road has at a vast expence been formed from Porthaethwy to Beaumaris, along the shelving side of the hill, a considerable height above high water mark. The former road was not only circuitous, but from the great inequalities and narrowness, exceedingly inconvenient; this is nearly level, the whole distance, more than four miles, and in going towards Beaumaris, as the charming bay gradually opens, though it would be hyperbolic to call it, "one of the finest terraces in the world," yet justly may it be said, the traveller is presented with a succession in picturesque and sublime scenery of unrivalled diversity.

END OF ANGLESEA.

ARFÔN,

A
ARFON,

OR

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

CAERNARVONSHIRE anciently formed part of the region, possessed by the people, denominated *Ordovices*; and after their partial reduction by the Roman power, the country assumed the name of *Venedotia*. In a subsequent period, when the division was made in the political power, and territorial possessions by Roderic the Great, it received the appellation of *Gwynedd*, comprehending this, and nearly the whole of four other counties in the present North Wales.

This district was called *Arfon*, from being situated opposite to Môn or Mona, Anglesea, meaning literally *supra Monam*, or the country adjacent to that island: and the addition of *Caer* was added to the county town, and consequently to the shire, from the circumstance, of the former having been a fortified station of the Romans.

This is a portion of country interesting by its natural productions, and multifarious scenery; but still more so by the noble exploits of its ancient occupants, and the important events, concatenated with its history. During Roman, British, Saxon, Norman, and English displays of unsatiated ambition, and tyrannic strides, towards general domination, this became the scene of a desperate and long protracted contention; because the refuge of independence, and the residence of freedom.

“ We now ascend, and eastward bend our view
Where Rome’s imperial eagle never flew;
The Menai leave—the rocky heights explore,
The Briton’s last resource—his mountains hoar—

Where

Where weeping freedom from the contest fled,
 And Cambria saw her dearest heroes dead.
 Illustrious band ; distinguish'd Arfon's boast !
 'Twas yours to lead in Gwynedd's warlike host.
 For you, while wisdom dwelt upon his tongue,
 Your own Taliesin's sweetest lyre was strung ;
 For you in peaceful shades, and tented plains,
 Flow'd from his hallowed lips th' approving strains
 Here brave Caradoc the recording Muse,
 Thy virtues, conflicts, and thy fall reviews,
 Thy manly eloquence, thy adverse fate
 The act, that made a Claudius truly great.
 Thine, liberal Roman ! be the hero's fame,
 And Britain's muse still venerates thy name,
 Pours with a grateful flow, this verse to thee,
 That bade with generous voice, thy foe be free.
 Far different, Edward, are thy hated deeds—
 The smile vindictive, when thy rival bleeds,
 E'en now the muse can hear the traitor's voice,
 Renew the shout, and alien hosts rejoice ;
 The triumph ring through Conway's crowded halls,
 While struggling Cambria with Llewelyn falls.—
 Thus fell, divided from his country's bands
 The princely victim of ignoble hands ;
 Thus fell the heir of Britain's isles and crown,
 Yet heaven had smiles reserved beyond its frown.*"

LLOYD.

This county is bounded on the east by Denbighshire, from which it is divided by the Conwy ; the Glas-Llyn river separates it from part of Merioneth ; the Menai straits from Anglesea ; and the residue has a maritime boundary. It extends in length about forty-five miles, but its breadth is exceedingly variable, in some parts nearly fourteen, and in others not more than seven. The aspect of the county is generally of an Alpine cast, consisting of almost continued elevations and depressions ;

* I confess, observes Vaughan of Hengwrt, we have reason to bless God for his mercy to us in our happy establishment under one monarch ; we may well say we were conquered to our gain, and undone to our advantage."

sions, and the mountains, both from their height and shape, exhibit very discriminating characteristics in the features of this highly diversified portion of the kingdom. The principal of these constitutes what is denominated the Snowdonian chain, extending from near Conway, in the north east, to the shore that bounds Porthorian road; comprising the Snowden and the Rhifel ridges; each composed of several very large and lofty mountains. Amidst these are very deep hollows, and cwms, forming narrow vallies, through which numerous streams, that issue from the various lakes, with which this district abounds, rush with impetuous violence over cataracts, or gently meander to the sea. "These mountains," says a traveller, "are indeed, so like the Alps, that except the language of the people, one could hardly avoid thinking he is passing from Grenoble to Susa, or rather passing the country of the *Grisons*. The lakes also, which are so numerous here, make the similitude the greater; nor are the fables, which the country people tell of these lakes, much unlike the stories, which we meet with among the Switzers of the famous lakes in their country." These almost impassable heights, were the formidable, and for centuries the unassailable refuges, of the overpowered, but unvanquished Britons, when obliged to retreat before the Roman and the English force.

In speaking of Caernarvonshire, the historian Camden gives the following narration:—"But for the inner parts, nature has raised them far and wide into high mountains (as if she would condence here within the bowels of the earth, the frame of this island,) and made a most safe retiring place for the Britons in time of war. For here are such a number of rocks and craggy places, and so many yallies incumbered with woods and lakes, that they are not only unpassable to an army, but even to light armed troops. We may very properly call these mountains the British Alps, for besides that they are the highest in all the island, they are also no less inaccessible by reason of the steepness of their rocks than the Alps themselves; and they all encompass one hill, which far exceeding the rest in height, does

so tower its head aloft, that it seems, I shall not say to threaten the sky, but to throw its summit into it. It harbours snow continually, being throughout the year covered with it, or rather with a hardened crust of snow; and hence the British name of *Kraig Eryn*, and the English one of *Snowden*.”* This account was evidently borrowed from the following:—“ I must not,” observes Giraldus, “ pass over in silence the mountains, called by the Welsh *Eryri*, and by the English *Snowdon*, or mountains of snow, which gradually increasing from the lands of the sons of Conan, and extending themselves northwards near *Deganwy*, seem to rear their lofty summits even to the clouds, when viewed from the opposite coast of *Anglesea*. They are said to be of so great an extent, that, according to an ancient proverb, “ As *Mona* could supply corn for all the inhabitants of *Wales*, so could the *Eryri* mountains afford sufficient pasture for all the herds, if collected together.” Hence these lines of *Virgil* may be applied to them.

Et quantum longis carpent armenta diebus
Exigua tantum gelidus ros nocte reponet.

And what is cropt by day the night renews
Shedding refreshful stores of cooling dews.†”

These mountains certainly form a very prominent feature in the topographical delineation, and an important subject in the natural history, of North Wales; as well as its antiquities.

They were anciently denominated *Creigiau'r Eryri*, but subsequently by the English *Snowdon*; and from the latter circumstance it has been supposed, their appellation was derived from the upper parts of the ridge, being, like the *Niphates* in *Armenia*, and the *Imaus* in *Tartary*, constantly covered with snow. But neither the facts nor etymology will support the conjectural criticism. Had the Welsh name corresponded with the English, it would have been *Creigiau'r Eiry* or *Eira*, that is snow-clad

* Gibson's *Camden*, p. 794.

† Hoare's *Giraldus*, Vol. II. p. 130.

clad rocks. But notwithstanding the assertion of Camden and others, it is not true, that snow lies on these mountains the whole year round. The summits, during winter, and at times, for a considerable part of the spring are covered with snow, and, contrasted with the verdure of their skirts, forms a pleasingly variegated contrast. The term Eryri is evidently derived from *Eryr*, an eagle; and Creigiau'r Eryri is literally, the Eagle-rocks. This appellation, some writers suppose, was, given them on account of numerous eagles having formerly here taken up their alpine abode; and to the present time, a few of these ravenous birds are found skulking from human ken,* amidst the lofty clefts of their precipitous heights. Others have imagined, that Eryri might have been applied to these rocks metaphorically, from their having been the grand retreats of the Britons, when overpowered by their enemies, and driven to extremities; and whence, as opportunities offered, they sallied forth, and like infuriate eagles, darted their talons on the heads of their pursuers. This is not a chimerical supposition; for the Bards were accustomed to bestow the epithet *Eryr*, in their laudatory descriptions of great men, more particularly in the eulogies of persons, who had distinguished themselves in warfare.† In the direction of these mountains,

the

* According to vulgar tradition, says the itinerant monk, these mountains are frequented by an eagle, who perching on a fatal stone every fifth holiday, in order to satiate her hunger, with the carcasses of the slain, is said to expect war on that same day; and to have almost perforated the stone by cleaning and sharpening her beak."

Hoare's Giralduſ, Vol. II. p. 131.

† Thus the bard of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, A. D. 1200, obſerves,

" Dywawd Derwyddon
Dadeni Haelion
O hil Eryon."
O Eryri.

That is " Druids have foretold, that generous heroes ſhould ariſe from the race of the eagles of Eryri."

Jolo Goch alſo, in praiſe of Owen Glyudwr remarks,

" Eryr digrif afrifed
Owain helm gain hael am ged."

Owen the eagle witty beyond compariſon, of bright armour, and of a bountiful diſpoſition."

the observations of Kirwan will appear peculiarly appropriate. Many extend in length from north to south, while others take a line from east to west; and nearly the whole, range under one or other of these aspects: which bearings are accounted for, from the existing of two opposite currents at the deluge; the one from east to west, the other from north to south: the former in the course of the tides, and the latter tending towards those vast abysses, formed in the vicinity of the south poles. These primitive mountains gave rise to another striking phenomenon; "The uniform escarpement, or inequality of declivity, which the sides and flanks of mountains exhibit, according to the bearings of their aspects, on the different points of the compass to which they are exposed." This position is established by the statements of the most accurate travellers in every part of the world. Those mountains, which extend from north to south, have their abrupt declivity on the western side; those from east to west on the southern side, and the intermediate bearings, admit a similar rule. This geological fact, Mr. K. supposes conclusive of the fact, that two currents subsisted in the antediluvian seas, and at the time of the receding deluge.* The common escarpment of the Snowdonian chain, fronts the Menai, and ranges in a parallel line with the straits. The declivous sides of particular portions of the chain, depends much on the inclination of the strata. The principal elevations are Carnedd David, Carnedd Llewelyn, Trevaen, Moel Ogwen, Moel Siabod, the two Glyders, the two Llidors, Moel Llyfni, and Moel mynnydd Nant; all, apparently by their towering height, emulous to support the proud parent of the whole, *Snowdon*, with his pre-eminent summits of Crib-y-distyll, and y Wyddfa, or the dripping peak, and the conspicuous summit.

The height of mountains, as they affect the eye, must be considered from the spot, where the ascent begins to make a large angle with the plain. But, philosophically considered, they are computed from the surface of the ocean. Mr. Caswell, who was employed by Mr. Adams, author of the *Index Villarum*, to measure it in 1682, with instruments adjusted by that able philosopher, Flamsteed, made the height of the highest point,

1240

* Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, Vol. VIII.

1240 yards, (3720 feet) above the level of Caernarvon Quay. But later, and probably more accurate experiments have somewhat reduced its height; and the estimate now stands 3560 feet above the Quay; which, taking the height and that of the Quay, will make it about 3600 feet above the level of the sea. Carnedd Llewelyn ranges next, and Moel Siabod third in the scale of eminence. The rocks that compose the higher part of the chain are principally porphyry, granite, and granitel of Kirwan; the secondary rocks are chiefly hornblende, Schiller spar, loadstone, rowley rag, whinstone, schistose mica, schistose clay, mixtures of quartz, feld spar, mica, and argillaceous schistus in all its varieties.

On the western side are a number of basaltic columns, on a bed of hornstone, or chertz: and large coarse crystals, cubic pyrites, and various mineral bodies, are frequently found in the fissures. In the schistose rocks are several slate quarries; very considerable ones near Dolbadern; some in Llanddeiniolen; others in Llanberis; a few in Llan Eilgwyn; and very large ones at Cilgwyn, in Llanlyfni; the products of which are brought to Caernarvon, and thence shipped for a market. Those of Lady Penrhyn are at Dolawen; and there is a large quarry of the novaculite of Kirwan, varieties of second and third of that species, near Cwm Idwal; where great quantities of hones are cut, and annually sent to London and Dublin. Large silicious crystals, commonly called rock diamonds, are frequently found in the fissures of the rocks, and washed down by the violent torrents, occasioned by the heavy rains of this alpine tract, are collected by the poor inhabitants, and presented for sale to travellers and tourists, as an extraordinary and valuable production. Some curious specimens also of cubic pyrites, and cristallized tin, have at times been discovered.

The animals of these alpine tracts, were formerly wolves, stags, foxes, and goats; but the former noisome animals have long ceased to be a terror to the traveller, and the deer, which in Leland's time, appear to have prevented the growth of corn, by the havoc they made, were extirpated, according to

a manuscript account, some time prior to the year 1626. Numerous foxes, however, still find shelter in the holes and clefts of the rocky crags, so abundant in this district. These, by their nocturnal depredations on the poultry, lambs, and sheep, are a sad annoyance to the farmers, whose annual losses from these destructive and insidious enemies, is beyond the power of calculation. Fox-hunting forms a fine source of amusement for the country gentlemen, and as in many instances it must be a pedestrian exercise, from the nature of the ground, the commonalty are enabled to participate in the pleasures of the chase: the only requisite being a leaping pole, to assist the pursuer in passing any obstructing stream, or treacherous quagmire. The Welsh are peculiarly partial to this field sport, and it certainly in a great degree, tends to keep down, if not diminish the number of these pernicious vermin, while at the same time it evidently promotes a sociable and hospitable disposition. The ancient wild inhabitants, the goats, annually seem to decline in number, and their value has decreased in value, owing to the general disuse of brushy wigs, which were usually made of the snowy hair of these shaggy animals.

Of rare and curious birds, the *golden eagle*, *falco chrysaetos*, is known to have bred, though rarely, amidst these mountains; but those of the genus seen here, generally are occasional visitors, which come for a season in quest of prey. The *ring*, or *rock Ouzel*, *Turdus torquatus*, the inhabitant of this district, is when found, in most places, a migratory bird; but here the species take up their abode, building their nests among the rocks, nurturing their young by the sides of the lakes, and descending into the dells, to feed on the berries of the *Sorbus aucuparia*, the mountain ash.

Among the various lakes already enumerated, many abound with fish, of which some are peculiar to Alpine waters, and others, noted for extraordinary conformation. Giraldus, who was desirous of describing every thing of a marvellous nature, produced in the principality, has the following remarks. "On the high part of these mountains, are two lakes worthy of notice; the one has a floating island in it, which is often driven from one side to the

other by the force of the winds ; and the shepherds behold with astonishment their cattle, whilst feeding, carried to the distant parts of the lake.* A part of the bank, naturally bound together by the roots of willows and other shrubs, may have been broken off, and increased by the alluvion of the earth from the shore : and being continually agitated by the winds, which in so elevated a situation, blow with great violence, it cannot reunite itself firmly with the banks. The other lake† is noted for a wonderful and singular miracle ; it contains three sorts of fish, eels, trout, and perch, all of which have only one eye, the left being wanting : but if the curious reader should demand of me the explanation of so extraordinary a circumstance, I cannot presume to satisfy him. It is remarkable that in two places in Scotland, one near the eastern, the other near the western sea, the fish called mullets possess the same defect, having no left eye.‡

This district, by the multifarious varieties of plants, composing its vegetable surface, presents a spacious field for phytological investigation ; and to the lovers of botany must afford a rich repast of rational amusement. It peculiarly abounds with those species of herbaceous plants, styled by Linnæus, in his usual expressive and depictive manner, *Ethereæ* ; because their habitats, or localities, are only discoverable on the higher parts of mountains : and notwithstanding the seeds, by adverse winds,

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must

* This is a small lake, named *Llyn y Dywarchen*, or the lake of the sod, on the right of the road, leading from Caernarvon to Beddgelert ; which still exhibits the same peculiarity, as here mentioned, and rationally accounted for. When the celebrated Wilson was painting a picture, that included this lake in its scenery, he was long at a loss, how to depict this singular phenomenon. At length the idea occurred to him, of exhibiting the movability of the island, by portraying a man, standing with a pole in his hands, and in the act of shoving it towards the shore. E.

† The other is *Llyn y cwn*, or the Dog's Pool, which is considered the highest among these mountains. The monocular fish have, however, long disappeared. E.

‡ Hoare's *Giraldus*, Vol. II. p. 130.

must frequently be blown downwards, yet they are never found to vegetate in the lower, or champaign parts of the country. Numerous other genera* display their verdant and blooming beauties amidst these elevated tracts, many of which have rarely been found in any other.

It would be a matter of high gratification, if *Sylva*, could equally with *Flora*, boast of her profusion of decorative ornament. But alas the once immense forest is almost converted into one denudated country. In the time of Leland, it was very different, "Al Cregeeryri is forest. The best wood of Caernarvonshire is by Glynne Kledder, and by Glin Llughy, and by Capel Kiryk, and at Llanperis Meately, good wood about Conway Abbey, and Penmachno and about Cotmore, and Coiteparke, by Bangor, and in many other places."† But the venerable oaks and patulous beeches are gone, and their stools in numerous instances only remain, to point out where they once flourished, and "waved their verdant foliage in the wind." This denudation has been attributed to the unhappy contentions between the Welsh and English, for Snowdonia forming the dernier resort of the Britons,‡ and furnishing them shelter by its mountains and woods, induced Edward the first to employ his soldiers in felling the latter; that in future they might not be an annoyance to the progress of his armies. Thus imitating the policy of the Emperor Alexander, who, it is said, could not conquer the *Mardi*, till after he had caused to be felled the forests of Hyrcania.§ And with a similar view, John duke of Lancaster, to revenge the depredations committed upon the English borders

* See a systematical catalogue of these with their habitats, or the account of places where they grow, in Bingley's North Wales, Vol. II. p. 363.

† Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 42.

‡ This last fragment of the British dominion, the five baronies of Snowdon, was all that Llewelyn ap Gryffyd could gain by stipulation, at the short lived peace of 1277.

§ Quintius Curtius, Lib. V.

aders by the Scotch; set twenty-four thousand axes to work upon the woods in the southern part of Scotland. But this, from the previous description, furnished by Leland, by no means satisfactorily accounts for the general defalcation. Mining has been one general cause. At a variety of periods, mines of different kinds have been discovered, and worked; and as coal was not found in this district, smelting the ores must, by a prodigious demand for wood, have occasioned a very considerable consumption. It is curious to see the manner in which the observant Leland, accounts for this denudation, so manifest in another district, and now lamentably apparent in this: "The causes be these; first the wood cut down was never copisid, and this hath beene a great cause of destruction of wood thorough Wales. Secondly, after cutting down of wooddys the gottys hath so bytten the young spring, that it never grew but lyke shrubbes. Thirddely, men for the nonys destroyed the great woddis that thei shuld not harborow theves."* Two causes have been especially, and powerfully operating, to deprive this part of the country, of its strength, and beauty. The constant requisitions upon this species of property by the unceasing wants of avarice, and luxury; and the general disinclination in some instances, and disability in others, of making new plantations, to answer the deficiencies of disease or decay, and repair the still greater losses, occasioned by continual felling. It is here worthy of pointed observation, to recollect, how much the preservation of trees for a supply of timber, has occupied the attention of legislative assemblies, in the most remote, as well the more recent ages. The divine law, even in lawful warfare, and that in the country of the enemy, restricts the felling of trees; humanely distinguishing between such as were fructiferous or not.† By several constitutions in ancient systems of jurisprudence, but particularly in the *lex Aquileia*, to cut down the trees of others, was adjudged an act, deserving

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 77.

† Deuteronomy, chap. xx. v. 19, 20.

capital punishment. And by virtue of our own laws, any one, convicted of cutting, damaging, &c. any tree, or trees, likely to become timber, if only to the amount of five shillings in value, is deemed guilty of felony.* From the time of Ina, king of the West Saxons, to the present era, numerous regulations have been made for the preservation of timber. The tenantry on estates are bound by the laws, as well as restrictive leasehold clauses, from felling, and, in many cases, from even lopping the trees, on the respective estates; and why should not some salutary, and effectual law be enacted to prevent *proprietors* of lands, from despoiling these tracts of their sylvan beauty, friendly shade, and, under proper management, perpetual resources of wealth. The legislature has in divers instances prohibited the alienation of descendable property, why therefore should not landholders be restrained from the present maniacal mode of administering to their vices, by the destruction of their woods?

In some states of Germany a law existed, that obliged a landed proprietor, previous to his cutting down a timber tree, to plant, and protect another. A still wiser plan would be, to increase the obligatory number. But in this region coercive measures must, even to a superficial observer, appear superfluous. A considerable portion of the Alpine heights, and shelving crags of the mountains, are totally unfit for cultivation; but if planted, would soon become a very productive property. They are favourable, as is evident from similar soils, where such trees flourish, to the growth of oak, ash, beech, and other timber trees; and if plantations of these were interspersed with Scotch and spruce firs, sufficient wood, for various uses, might in a few years be cut out, and sold for a very valuable consideration. The subject appears to have excited some attention lately in the county, and a few of the great landed proprietors have begun to ornament their domains with sylvan decoration. And it is highly desirable, that their labours should be extended, and their example more generally followed.

The

* Statutes at large, 6 Geo. III. c. 36.

The whole of this extensive region, after the population had been so pertinacious in their patriotic views, was not only thinned of its inhabitants, by the necessary excision, arising from protracted warfare, but was studiously depopulated by the policy of the conqueror, converting the chief part of the lands into a royal forest. To persons unacquainted with the topography of ancient history, and the desolating nature of many political maxims, it must appear almost paradoxical, that ever such an apparently unfavourable country was well peopled, as, from the long and vigorous resistance it made, must have been the case; or that persons of rank and consequence should have made such rugged dreary wilds, their place of residence. Yet beyond all doubt, from historic documents, the remaining names of places, and other circumstances, these mountains, now almost destitute of people, were much more populous in ancient times, than at present; though vestiges of their dwellings, from having in some instances been constructed of timber, and in others of loose stones, are now untraceable. In those dark ages, when intestine warfare not only debilitated, but nearly annihilated the power of law, and the influence of custom was too weak, to protect the innocent, or obtain punishment for the guilty; when, from the prevalence of ignorance, and the over-clouding veil of superstition, wickedness became licentious, property precarious, life hazardous, and plunder, rapine, and murder, were included among venial crimes by virtue of *sanctuary*;* where could persons of consequence, or probity find a more secure asylum? But by this system, which had been adopted by the Norman race of kings, and all the great tyrants of the earth over vanquished countries, the state of

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things

* Owing to the perilous state of the country, under the reign of the later Welsh princes, the laws were imbecile, from the impossibility of seeing them duly executed. Sir John Wynne, in his history of the Gwydir family, adduces melancholy facts of the most flagrant crimes, committed, during the existing factions between the houses of Lancaster and York. Murder was compensated by a fine, and the assassin might escape that punishment, by only flying from one manor to another !!

things soon became materially changed: the once populous and proud region was stripped of its independent inhabitants, to gratify regal ambition, and re-peopled with animals, adapted to satiate regal luxury. Under this authority a considerable portion of the country still is included among, what are denominated the crown lands. Snowdonia being a royal forest, frequent warrants were issued for the killing, and appropriation of the deer. There is one, signed by Robert Townessend, in the first year of queen Elizabeth; and another by Henry Sydney, in 1561. The last is a little singular, as extending the forest into the counties of Merioneth and Anglesea, with the view of gratifying the queen's favourite, Dudley, earl of Leicesters, who had been appointed chief ranger: although Leland had, so late as the time of Henry the Eighth, made a very minute enquiry as to the topography and propertial state of this part of the kingdom; and under royal commission positively asserted, that all *Cregery*, viz. Snowdonia,* is Caernarvonshire, and no part comprised in any other county.

These documents, curious, not only as confirming the fact, but also as elucidatory of the spirit of the times, are couched in the following terms:

“ Warrant for a stag, out of Snowden forest, 4 July 1st. year of Queen Eliz. 1558.

I require you to deliver, or cause to be delivered, unto the bringer hereof, for the furniture and provision of the Queen's majesty's household of her great council in the marches of Wales, one stagge of this season, to be taken out of her highness forrest of Snowdon. And this bill signed with my hand, with the queens highness warrant dormant to the lord president, and Sir Robert Townessend, Knight, justice of Chester, and either of us, made for the same, the copie whereof remayneth with you, shall be your sufficient warrant and discharge in that bequest

* Speaking of Ardudwy, he says, “ This commot nor no part of Merionithshire lyith in Cregery. So that though this shire be montanius, yet is al Cregery in Cairarvonshir.” Itinerary. Vol. V. p. 40.

bequest. Given at her highness town of Salop, the 4th day of July, in the first yere of her majesty's reigne.

ROBT. TOWNESSEND.

To the master of the game, ranger and keeper of the queen's highness forrest of Snowdon, in the county of Caernarvon, there deputy or deputies there."

Another, somewhat different in its complexion, runs thus, "After my hearty commendations.— These are to require you to deliver to my friend Maurice Wynne, Gent. or to the bringer hereof in his name, one of my fee staggs or bucks of this season, due to me out of the Queen's majesty's forrest of Snowdon: and this my lre shall be your warrant of the same. So fare you well. From Cardigan, the 14th of August, 1561.

Your loving friend

H. SYDNEY.

To my very loving friende John Vaughan, forrester of the Queens forrest of Snowdon, in the counties of Anglesea, Merioneth, and Carnarvon; and in his absence to his deputy there*."

Under his authority, as ranger, the earl of Leicester gave by his conduct, a different idea to the term; for in consequence, he tyrannized over the three counties, pretendedly included in his commission, with the most rapacious injustice, and insufferable insolence. There were not wanting on the occasion persons who, to obtain favour or reward, suggested, that nearly the whole of the freehold property, from the vague wording of the grant, might, by constructive evidence, be brought

* These, preserved among the Gwydir manuscripts, are copied in an appendix to Pennant's Tour in Wales.

brought within the boundaries of the forest. Commissioners were in consequence appointed, and juries impannelled to make inquisition, into the numerous encroachments, made on the royal property. But by the integrity of the jurors and the firmness of the commissioners, particularly Sir William Herbert, and Sir Richard Bulkeley, the tyrant's views were frustrated. In 1578 a special commission was appointed, composed of persons dependent on the ranger. A jury, equally compliant in its views, was subpæned to attend at Beaumaris, and directed to survey the Maeltraeth marsh. After doing so, they delivered in a verdict, and found, that district to lie within the verge of Snowdon forest; notwithstanding it was in the county of Anglesea, and divided from Snowdonia, by an arm of the sea. This decision they were induced to come to, by the instruction of the commissioners, who said, that in the Exchequer of Caernarvon they had found an indictment, stating, a stag had been roused in the forest of Snowdon, in Caernarvonshire; which being pursued to the banks of the Menai, swam over that branch of the sea, and was killed at Maltraeth, "*infra forestam nostram de Snowdon,*" situated within the bounds of Snowdon forest. Conscious of the rectitude of former resistance, and relying on the justice of the cause, he had espoused, Sir Richard Bulkeley, in behalf of the landholders, spurned at the proceedings of the commissioners; and continued stedfast in his opposition to the tyrant. He personally laid before the Queen the unparalleled sufferings the Welsh were subject to, by the power, exercised under the commission; painted in glowing colours the odious nature of the proceedings; the disgrace such transactions reflected upon the exalted character of her majesty; and at length prevailed with her, to recal the commission grant: which was done by public proclamation at Westminster in the year 1579. Thus disappointed in his views, and interfered with, in his influence at court, Leicester pursued Sir Richard with an inveterate animosity, that only ceased with the Earl's life. The former still continuing to be in favour with the Queen and her council, notwithstanding all kinds

kinds of machinations, were used to oust him ; the latter determined to let no opportunity slip, of satiating his long conceived, and harboured revenge upon his antagonist. Innuendos and all the artful train, employed by Slander's deputy, Insinuation, having failed to effect the desired purpose ; a home charge of criminality, professedly founded upon facts, must necessarily be resorted to : and at length an opportunity offered of executing the nefarious design.

“ Sir Richard being one of the deputy lieutenants of Anglesea (upon intelligence of the Spanish Armadas, threatening England) was to cesse the country in arms ; and cessing the woods of Rhosmore, he was highly offended, and thought himself too heavily laden : therefore went up to court to the Earl of Leicester, carrying a false tale with him, that Sir Richard Bulkeley, (a little before the attainder and execution of Thos. Salusbury, one of the accomplices of Anthony Babington, the traitor, 1585) had been in the mountains of Snowdon, conferring with him, and that at a farm of Sir Richards, called Cwmligie, they had layne together two or three nights. The Earl, glad of this information, presently acquaints the Queen and council therewith. Sir Richard being called before the council, and examined, absolutely denied the whole matter. And when the Earl, at yt. time president of the Queen's counsil, did severely inforce it agt. him, he told the Earl to his face, “ Your father, and the very same men, as now informe against me, were like to undoe my father : for upon the death of K. Edward 6. by letters from your father, he was commanded to proclayme Queen Jane, and to muster the country ; which he did accordingly : and had not my mother been one of Queen Maries maids of honor he had come to great trouble and danger.” Hearing these words, the counsil hushed, and rose ; and Sir Richard departed. The Earl hastened to the queen, and told her the counsil had been examining Sir Richard Bulkeley, about matters of treason ; that they found him a dangerous person, and saw cause to commit him to the tower ; and that he dwelt in a suspicious corner of the world. “ What ! Sir
Richard

Richard Bulkeley ! said the queen ; he never intended us any harm. We have brought him up from a boy, and have had special tryal of his fidelity : you shall not comitt him.” “ We” said the Earl, “ have the care of your majestys person, see more and hear more of the man than you doe : he is of an aspiring mind, and lives in a remote place.” Before God (replied the queen) we will be sworn upon the holy Evangelists, he never intended us any harm ;” and so ran to the Bible and kissed it, saying, “ You shall not comitt him : we have brought him up from a boy.” Then the lords of the counsell wrote a letter to Dr. Hugh Bellot, lord bishop of Bangor, to examine the truth of the accusation layd to Sir Richard’s charge : which the bishop found false and forged ; and so certified to the counsil. Whereupen he was cleared, to the queen’s majesty’s great content, to the abundant joy of his country, and to his own great credit and reputation : and afterwards diverse of the lords of the councell wrote letters to the justices of assize of North Wales, to publish Sir Richards wrongs*.”

The principal royalties in the county, still belong to the king, many estates are held by regal grants, and most of the waste lands are subject to inquisition from the exchequer. Numerous large and small freeholds, however, escaped the grasp of despotism, and the transfer of property has, in few instances, for many years, received any annoyance from the crown. The principal great landholders and their seats, at present in the county, are the following :

Proprietors.	Seats.
<i>Lord Newborough, a minor</i>	GLYNLLIVON PARK.
<i>Lady Penrhyn,</i>	PENRHYN CASTLE.
<i>Thomas Asheton Smith, M. P.</i>	VAENOL HALL.
<i>Sir Robert Williams, bart.</i>	NANT HALL.
<i>Mrs. Finch, ...</i>	{ CEFN AMWLCH, and LIME HALL.

Colonel

* From the Plus Gwyn M. S. S. published in Pennant’s Tour in Wales. Vol. III. Appendix.

<i>Parry Jones Parry, Esq.</i>	MADRYN.
<i>Colonel Edwards,</i>	NANTHORAN.
<i>Lord Gwydir,</i>	GWYDER HALL.
<i>Sir Thomas Mostyn, bart.</i>	GLODDAETH.
<i>John Griffiths, Esq.</i>	{ LLANVAIR HALL and BRYNNODEL HOUSE.
<i>Rice Thomas, Esq.</i>	COED-HELEN.
<i>Wm. Alexander Madocks, M. P.</i>	{ TRE MADOC LODGE, and TAN YR ALT.

Numerous other independent proprietors farm their own estates.

AGRICULTURE. From a late survey, the superficial content of Caernarvonshire, appears to comprise three hundred thousand acres of land, of which only one hundred and sixty thousand are in a state of culture; a greater portion of which also is under pasturage. In the report made to the Board, one hundred thousand acres are stated, from natural circumstances, not only to be unfit for cultivation, but incapable of receiving it; consisting of dells, moors, rugged mountains, horrid chasms, and forming together a most dreary region.

The soil is considerably varied. The district, beneath the Snowdon mountains, consists of sand and loam on a limestone substratum, particularly near the Menai shore, peculiarly favourable to the growth of corn and grass; answering the description, given of it by Leland, near three centuries ago; "Cairarvonshire aboute the shore hath reasonable good corne, as abouth a myle upland from the shore on to Cairnarvon.* The soil towards, and amidst the mountains, is of two kinds. Where the ground is dry, it consists of a reddish sort of loam, intermixed with pebbles, and stony fragments. This, when well manured, is very productive in corn, or almost any species of vegetables. As you ascend higher, the surface becomes much shallower, and less promising for culture. "More upward be Eryri hills, and in them is very little corne, except otes in sum places,

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 43.

places, and a little barle, but scanty rye.”* Indeed there is one unavoidable misfortune, that too frequently attends farming on these hills. The blade, while green, looks fine, and augurs well for a future crop of corn; but often it will not ripen, and if, which must often happen from the weather, it be left out in the field late in the season; the sudden gusts of wind and tornadoes, which burst forth from the numerous cwms and hollows, beat off the ears, and leave little beside the bare straw, for the disappointed husbandman.

The other kind of soil is of a *peaty* nature, and of this are composed many of the meadows and heathy wastes and commons. This being generally wet and mossy, in dripping summers, will produce scarcely any thing valuable, as herbage or hay.

Most of the cwms, and narrow vallies, amidst the hills, also participate in this kind of soil; exhibiting a considerable fertility in what is here termed, *Gwair y rhosydd*, that is hay, composed of a few kinds of alpine grasses, thickly intermixed with different species of rushes, viz. *Schoenus nigricans*, bog rush, *Juncus squarrosus*, moss rush, *Scirpus cespitosus*, heath club rush; and frequently besprinkled with divers species of *carex*, or sedge. The hay, which the bottoms and lower meadows produce, is of a very superior quality, being remarkably fine and soft; consisting principally of bent and fescue grass.

The district of *Llyn*, which forms a considerable portion of the country, is varied, though it presents none of those deep glens and concatenated mountains, which so strongly characterize the eastern part. The surface is chiefly, what in England would be denominated upland pasture; interrupted, occasionally, by narrow marshy vallies, and interspersed with conical hills, isolated, or in small groups. The divisions of land into fields, are marked by stone walls, or earthen mounds. The general character of the soil is light and stony, but from the situation being drier and warmer, than most other parts of Caernarvonshire, the quantity of its agricultural produce is proportionably larger, and more valuable. Many black cattle are reared, and the horses of

* Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 43.

of this district, are considered in general, superior to any bred in the county.

The farmers are chiefly dairy men; and make their rents from butter, wool, and lambs: they possess a few small cows, numerous herds of goats, and sheep, of a diminutive size. During the summer months, these are followed by their owners, who leave their winter habitations, and take up their residence amidst the hills; where they erect what are termed *havodtai*, or summer dairy houses, which are merely huts, like the cottages before described, not unlike the sennes occupied by the farmers of Switzerland. The furniture is equally simple with the building; a few stones supply the place of chairs, and bundles of rushes along the sides, are in lieu of beds. Here the men pass their time in tending their flocks, or in harvest work; while the women milk the cattle, and are occupied in their dairies: they milk both sheep and goats as well as cows. A goat yields daily about two quarts of milk, the sheep, one. Of these they make butter for sale, and cheese for home consumption.

Their mode of living is very simple: *Bara ceirch*, or oaten bread, with a little hung smoke-dried goat's flesh, forms the principal food; while their drink consists of whey, or buttermilk, and a few bottles of cwrw, preserved as a cordial in case of illness. They are, as may be expected, from their plain and humble way of living, a hardy race; and free from many of those chronic diseases which are the offspring and concomitants of luxury and dissipation. If medicine is deemed necessary, the vegetables in the vicinity, furnish the supply, which is administered by the advice of some skilful and venerable matron.

The season over, on the approach of the cold, they return to their *hen drefon*, or winter habitations, where they enjoy the produce of their summer labours, and employ themselves in domestic concerns. "The employ of the mountain people in summer and in winter, besides feeding their cattle, and dairy work, is that of carding and spinning their wool, of which they make cloth for their own wearing, and for sale in the neighbouring

bouring fairs and markets. Vast quantities of this, and of excellent woollen stockings, are carried to Llanrwst, Caernarvon, and other markets, far and near. They also make great quantities of striped linsey-woolsey of different patterns, which they call stuff, for women's gowns, &c. and where there is more wool than the family can manufacture, it is sold at the neighbouring fairs, Llanrwst fair, held on the 21st of June, is their principal mart for wool; English buyers come there for it; and the price which it fetches at that fair, is usually the standard for the year. They also spin a good quantity of coarse linen cloth for their own use, and a great part of it is sold. They do not use much linen for their own wearing; they wear chiefly flannel shirts, and sleep between blankets.

The spinners and weavers of these hills have a measure peculiar to themselves. The yard they use, is called the Welsh yard, which is forty inches in length; by this all their milled cloth, flannels, linseys, and linen are sold.* It is usual for the head of the family to be skilled in every trade, and the different branches necessary for their mode of life; as that of mason, carpenter, smith, wheelwright, shoe-maker, tailor, &c. in which occupations the rest of the family assist him; and it is not a little gratifying to observe, with what varied ingenuity he performs the several operations of handicraft business.

The inhabitants are remarkable for *longevity*, and many memorial stones in different cemeteries, are inscribed with dates, far exceeding the octogesimal period, generally allowed for human existence, in this sublunary state. This may be accounted for, in some degree, from the absence of luxury and dissipation, prevalent in more fertile regions; from the frugality in their mode of living; but principally from the climature, the bracing effects of a cold sharp oxygenated atmosphere, preserving an equability of internal and external pressure upon the animal frame, thus aiding digestion, and producing corporeal vigour.

The

* Williams's Observations on the Snowden mountains.

No ayre so pure and wholesome as the hill,
 Both man and beast delights, to be thereon,
 In heate, or cold it keepes on nature still,
 Trim neate and drye, and gay to go upon.
 The soil is cold and subject unto winde,
 Hard duskie rocks, all covered full dim;
 Where if winde blowe, ye shall foule weather finde,
 And thinke you feel the bitter blasts full brim.
 But though cold bytes the face, and outward skin,
 The stomach loe, is thereby warm'd within.
 For still more meate the Mountayne men digest,
 Than in the playne you finde among the best.
 Soure whey and curds can yeeld a sugred tast,
 Where sweet *martchpane*, as yet was never knowne;
 When empty gorge hath bole of milke embrast,
 And cheese and bread, hath dayly of his own,
 He craves no feast, nor seekes no banquets fine,
 He can digest his dinner without wine!
 So toiles out life, and likes full well this trade,
 Not fearing death, because his count is made*."

The general firing of the country people is peat, quantities of which they dig in the morassy parts of the wastes and commons, and store up for winter use. Much of this remarkable and valuable substance contains a large portion of bituminous matter, which renders it, as fuel, a tolerable substitute for coal: an article of very limited use, in the district, from the very high price; which is nearly as enormous in this county, as in the island of Anglesea; and for similar reasons. The supply is obtained from the coal-works in Lancashire, consequently the duty coastwise, freightage, commission, &c. greatly contribute to enhance the first purchase price. The fire is usually made by piling ignited coals, or peat, on the stone floor of the chimney place. For though grates have been introduced; yet such is the power of prejudice, or the influence of custom, that many consider a fire, elevated above the level of the floor, far less

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calculated

* Churchyard's Worthines of Wales,

calculated for the purposes of warmth and drying cloths, than one enkindled upon the prostrate hearth.

Their *Habitations* in general are as rude, as their food is coarse. In some parts, particularly in Llyn, they consist of walls, built of, what in Devonshire is termed, *cobb*; that is, an argillaceous earth having straw or rushes mixed with it, while in a state of paste; and then laid layer upon layer, between boards, till the whole are ready for the formed roof, composed of thatch, either of straw, or heath. Many of these hovels, for little else can they be considered, are destitute of chimnies; the smoke making its escape by an aperture, at the extremity of the building. In the more mountainous parts, the cottages are constructed of loose stones, such as are found in abundance about the basements of the mountains. Those are piled on each other, and the interstices caulked, or stuffed with moss, to prevent the ingress of winds and driving rains. The houses of the small farmers, however have the openings, filled with mortar; and, in some few instances, plastered, and whitewashed over. In the more frequented parts of the county, between Caernarvon and Conway, both cottages and superior dwellings are chiefly built of stone, quarried for the purpose; and though these consist of very shapeless masses, they are so artfully put together, that the very irregularity of the seams is not unseemly. The roofing is generally formed of the fine blue slate, dug in the vicinity; which, when the walls are white washed, or rough cast, gives them a very cheerful aspect. The late Lord Penrhyn, with a noble and patriotic spirit, the good effects of which will be felt for ages to come, by planting on his estates, building numerous neat farm houses, with suitable offices, and others of a smaller description, for husbandmen and artisans, has converted a wild waste, into a comparative well peopled paradise. In situations exposed much to westerly winds, the walls of dwelling houses are not unusually guarded with slates. These are applied to the walls, squameously, or clinker fashion, that is, each succeeding row upwards, partially overlaying the one below. This method

method of facing is adopted to prevent the insinuating sea air, from penetrating the walls, and affecting the rooms with dampness. Houses thus fronted with a fine coloured slate; the slates well selected, and put on neatly, with black, or dark grey mortar,* assume a handsome appearance. But some, from the ouzing of the white mortar out of the joints, and spreading partially over the surface in stripes, or patches, are as disgusting, as the others are grateful to the eye.

Fences. Nothing perhaps marks more strongly the rural management of any district, than the mode of fencing, and the state of its field boundaries: and in the different parts of the kingdom, these form very strong characteristic features in the agricultural face of the country. Much land, not deemed in a state of waste, through this county, has for ages been devoid of fences; and those considered as inclosed, have such mounds, as not only permit the sheep to transgress, but also cattle and horses to pass over; to the great annoyance and loss of the occupiers of such lands: though under the circumstances of the case, such loss would, with difficulty, be adjudged *damage feasant*. Few quick, or coppice, hedges are to be seen, but the fields are divided by low walls, three feet high, and in places not more than two, constructed of odd stones, collected off the land, or from the adjacent commons. These are loosely piled in an heterogeneous manner, except, that frequently smaller pieces are laid upon a large huge block, placed evidently in its present position centuries ago: and from the curvature of many fences, the several massy blocks, discoverable in them, probably formed the clue for the direction they take. Mounds so unstable often fall, open breaches for all kinds of errant cattle; and present no obstacle whatever to sheep, which at the approach of winter descend in myriads from the mountains, like swarms spread over the lowland fields, and, by a kind of overwhelming authority, devour every thing within

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* A cement compounded of quick or boiling lime, and sharp sand, intermixed with coal-ashes, or forge cinders.

their gripe, So that the farmer possesses not the power of exclusively depasturing his own autumnal and winter herbage; nor of securing from serious trespass, his infant crops of corn. A laudable spirit of improvement has, however, lately displayed itself in this respect, and many gentlemen have cleared their fields of the numerous large blocks of stone, that are dispersed over most of the estates of this district, which previously formed a serious obstacle to culture. These have been blasted by the force of gun-powder, and shivered into small pieces, admirably fitted for the purposes of building. Almost the whole of the lands, adjacent to the mountains are covered with immense masses of stone; the removing of which, though attended with great expence, is an essential step towards the improvement of the estates. This ameliorating plan, is, however, introduced, and promises to become general; and the manner in which the business is performed is extremely curious. A hole is first bored by means of a hammer and chissel, in one of the ponderous fragments of rock, about the diameter of a common fusee barrel; and from ten to eighteen inches deep. At the bottom of this, is lodged a certain quantity of gun-powder. The operator then takes a thin iron rod, tapering to a point, nearly two feet in length, which he places perpendicularly in the hole, and round it stuffs in small stones, clay, &c. ramming the charge down, by means of another iron tool with a kind of groove in it, for the purpose of passing freely about the aforesaid rod. The work thus prepared, the rod is withdrawn, and a straw, filled with gunpowder, is substituted in its place. A match of such a length, as will burn a sufficient time, to afford opportunity for the workman to escape, is then applied, a grand explosion ensues, and the mass bursts into numerous pieces. Compact walls, of a proper preventative height, have been erected, and the face of the country begins to exhibit visible marks of improvement: to further which, it is probable a due portion of emulation will, in the course of a few years, greatly contribute. Indeed many inclosure acts have received the sanction of Parliament, and several commissions are now putting the powers of

of them into execution; viz. those for dividing and allotting the extensive wastes in the parishes of Llaurûg, Llanddeniolen, &c. &c. The rent of land is in general apparently very high; but then, it should be considered, here are few farms, that do not possess some advantages beyond their precincts, either by liberty of waste, or commonable right. And those in the vicinity of the mountains have an almost unlimited extension of sheep-slight. The leaseholds are few, the rackrenters many, the estates chiefly what are termed small biddings, and the occupiers too poor, for much to be expected from this quarter, till the system of letting be changed, and the scale of occupancy enlarged. The poverty of the small farmers subjects them in one district, to neglect their land, and hire out the strength, which should perform the labour, necessary to its improvement, for the paltry, but present gain, procured by carrying slates from the quarries to Caernarvon quay: and in another by the precarious, and, at best, temporary advantages, afforded by the herring fishery.

The produce of the arable land is, wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and some few turnips. The first kind of crop was long a stranger to this district; but where adequate fences have been formed, and the land properly prepared, this has been found to answer well. Barley is also grown more frequently, than formerly. Oats constitute the principal crop on the poorer lands. The prejudices of the farmers here, is strong against the advantageous practice of clover leys, and winter green crops, for early spring feed. And it must be allowed, that this opinion is in part justifiable, from the unprotected state of the lands in general, during those seasons of the year: and a similar reason will equally apply to the turnip culture.* The raising of that useful root, the potatoe, is coming into fashion; and several parts of the county grow considerable quantities. Previous to the year 1758, Mr. Pennant remarks, all the district of Nant Conwy was obliged to import this necessary article; and sub-

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sequent

* Tour in Wales, Appendix, p. 448.

sequent to that period, as appears by the Custom books, it has been able to spare a large surplus for exportation. This has been the case in the district, adjacent to Caernarvon; which a few years since was necessitated to derive its supply from Lancashire; and such has been the extension of this kind of culture, that it is now enabled partially to furnish Liverpool, where Welsh potatoes obtain a preference in the market, for their superior flavour. The principal part of the lands are, however, under *pasturage*. And many of these are capable of multifarious, and great improvement: the first of which is,

Draining. On many lands, where the requisite descent for the purpose is manifest, the superfluous water is suffered to lie on, or near, the surface, till the roots are chilled, if not rotted; and the consequent produce is grass of a sour unnutritious quality. The removal of this sterilizing cause naturally presents itself to the beholder, as the previous necessary step, towards the amelioration of such estates. Some little draining is done; but the mode is altogether erroneous. The drains are too narrow for the purpose of carrying off the land-flood waters, and the fields are continually choaked up with the soil, deposited by the torrents, which during rainy seasons, descend from the hills. If under-draining in many instances be thought too expensive, then should the open drains be made much wider than at present; and sufficiently multiplied, to effect the desired purpose. The objection, that the peaty soils are of such a spongy quality, as to prevent the adoption of the practice recommended, with any prospect of success, because the sides would consequently swell, and coalesce; might easily be removed by the mode of their formation, viz. cutting the upper part of the drains double the breadth of the bottom, so as to leave the sides shelving: the form corresponding with the section of a truncated cone. These, regularly cleared, after floods, which would afford a proper employment for the mountaineers, who have little to occupy their time, during the winter months, would fully answer the end in view; and amply compensate the farmer, for the trouble and expence incurred. But a further difficulty to this part of
rural

rural economy is suggested, by the observation, founded no doubt in experience, that "peaty ground, if kept in a *dry* state, will produce little or nothing." This however might be obviated by

Irrigation. The watering or flooding of grass-lands, that greatest of all modern adopted improvements, in their management, might with facility be practised in almost every part of Caernarvonshire, by means of the numerous streams, that fall in every direction from the hills; as the labour and cost of diverting their waters, and occasionally, at proper seasons, letting them run over their lands: would be comparatively nothing, in the scale of the counter advantages, obtained. The turning them off, when the soil was sufficiently saturated, might be effected with nearly a similar paucity of trouble, particularly in the extensive district of Llyn, which is supplied with water ready for such disposal, through the whole, being watered, as Mr. Pennant, emphatically remarked, "by a thousand little rills." Some few farmers, sensible of the great benefits derivable from such a practice, have recently been induced to adopt it; but in these instances it is observable, the soil is only partially drained; and the water imperfectly distributed over the land. Still the good effects are visible by the verdure and luxuriance of the herbage.

As fattening cattle is not an object in rural economy, and like the sheep most of the milch kine, during spring and summer depasture the open commons or the cow-lights on the sides of the mountains, the inclosed meadows are regularly hained up, or reserved for crops of hay. These, where the land is occasionally manured, afford a tolerable produce; but in some cases, and those far too numerous, the crops are scanty, and the quality bad. Owing to the general coldness of the atmosphere amidst the hills, the harvest is generally late, and from the frequent rains, the gathering of them highly precarious; the hay often being spoiled before it can be housed. When a few fine days occur, the meads present a busy bustling scene of toilsome labour. The otherwise secluded scenes, are enlivened

by the numerous mountaineers, employed on these occasions. Some loading the drays, or sledges, others with horses, bearing panniers, and even men, women, and children carrying the hay away on their shoulders. Should the weather continue tolerably dry, yet uncertainty, and liability to damage, arise from another quarter. Whirlwinds or tornadoes, are not unusual, which are observed to commence, by a distant rumbling noise, then becoming louder and louder, the unwelcome visitors are perceived advancing up the cwms, and through the hollow ravines, whirling in a circular direction, and carrying in their vortices, fern, rushes, moss, slates, and the hay, if unprotected. To prevent the injury, which otherwise, might accrue from these hurricanes, they have recourse to an ingenious precaution, evidently taught by hard necessity, that of putting the grass, when cut, into very small cocks or heaps, and placing a broad flat stone, or slate, in an inclined position, over each. The same cogency of circumstances induces them to be very circumspect in the method of securing their hay, and other stacks. These are first thatched, by spreading thinly over them straw, coarse hay, or rushes: this covering is then fastened, not as in England with hazel rods, pegged down by spars, or double splinters, but with hay ropes, stretched horizontally at small distances from each other, and the intervals crossed by similar bands.* The whole looks like net-work, and exhibits a peculiar degree of neatness.

Stock. Almost every farmer has his land overstocked. That is, by the assistance of the mountain and other commonable pasture, he is enabled to keep a greater quantity of sheep and cattle, than the produce of the farm, or the provision of the home-sted will maintain through the winter: consequently he is, obliged to sell off a considerable portion, at the latter end of the year, for whatever price they will bring; that by a reduction of his stock, he may be able to find fodder for the remainder. Not, but it is probable each might keep double the quantity

* The same judicious mode of thatching is adopted in Cornwall and the Highlands of Scotland.

quantity, to what he usually does, during the estival months; but then, what can he do with them in the season, when his fodder is scarcely adequate to sustain half his present stock; and he has no hibernacula, no well screened sheds, to shelter an additional number, from the chilling effects of piercing winds and drifting snows, prevalent here in severe winters.*

The *horned cattle* of Caernarvonshire are in general much smaller, than those of Anglesea; and, when fatted off far inferior in weight; and therefore not in high esteem with the grazer, nor carcass butcher. They are however compact animals, short on the leg, proportionably deep in the body, and exhibit a pleasing symmetry. The colour is chiefly black, and the milch kine, are, for the most part, reputed what are termed good milkers.

The *sheep* are the ancient alpine sort, unadulterated, or unimproved by any foreign mixture, and form a distinct and very curious breed. They are, compared with the Coteswold, Leicester, or even Ryeland breeds, very diminutive animals; and far inferior in size to those of the adjacent county of Anglesea. Rather long legs, slender bodies, and concave-shaped necks, constitute the discriminating characteristics: and they have small and rather handsome faces. Some of them in symmetry resemble the *Marino* breed of Spanish sheep. Like the latter they are migratory, though not to an equal extent; travelling up to the mountains, during the summer months, and at the approach of winter descending to the low-land pastures. The
wool

* The method of improving lands in this district, is so obvious, as scarcely to need pointing out. That is, fencing out a few acres of land, proportionate to the extent of each farm, with walls of a sufficient height, and form, to prevent sheep leaping over. This should receive proper culture, and be planted with winter-vetches, Scotch cabbages, and Norfolk, or Swedish, turnips. Then appropriate out-buildings should be erected, both for winter and summer use, so as to enable the farmer to increase and improve his stock. This, however, in the first instance, should be done by the proprietors of estates, to shew the advantages of such a kind of husbandry; because the visible good effects of any new plan of culture, are much more likely, than the most persuasive arguments, to insure its adoption.

wool is in general coarse, and of a short staple, although in many instances, that of the neck and shoulder possesses a considerable degree of fineness. It is, however, peculiarly adapted for the article into which it is chiefly manufactured, and as it has been remarked, "is of more extensive use, than the finest *Segovian* fleeces; for rich and poor, age and youth, health and infirmities, all confess the universal benefit of the flannel manufacture." This breed of sheep, from their size and shape, do not appear to have an inherent tendency in their nature to produce coarse wool; but the scantiness of their food in winter, and the ungenial cold to which, for want of proper shelter, they are necessarily exposed, during the inclement season, subjects the poor animals to that cachexy, arising from inanition, and the consequent infirmities; which must certainly powerfully operate to the deterioration of the fleece. For it has been manifested by experiments, that the more temperate the atmosphere, in which sheep are permitted to subsist, the finer is the staple of their wool.*

From their ranging mode of life, these sheep assume a very different character, and habitude, to those of an inclosed country. They roam wherever inclination leads, confined by no fences; and frequently, unattended by a shepherd, are obliged to have recourse to their own exertions, against their formidable
enemies

* The fineness of staple, so peculiar to Spanish wools, has generally been attributed to the custom of making the sheep travel from pasture to pasture. But many permanent flocks in the vicinity of Segovia, in Arragon, and divers other parts of Spain, it has been observed, bear wool equally fine with the migratory ones. The nature of the soil and the climate conduce more, than any other causes, to produce this happy effect. The *equal temperature* which these animals experience both summer and winter, by their abiding, during the latter, in the southern plains, and valleys; and in the former, ranging the mountains of the north, together with the circumstance of their remaining in the open air night and day, have been supposed to contribute principally to the amelioration of the fleece,†

† See numerous judicious observations on this important subject in vol. IV. of a work, lately published by Longman and Co. entitled, "A View of Spain, &c." Translated from the French of Alexander de Laborde.

enemies, the foxes, who here assemble in troops; and the ravens and large birds of prey, who from necessity, in this grainless country, become carnivorous. The sheep themselves appear quite different animals: instead of assembling in large flocks, they form gregarious parties, generally consisting of ten or twelve; of which number, while feeding, one stands at a distance as sentinel, to give notice, of approaching danger. If the guard perceive any thing making towards the little flock, he turns and faces the enemy, and permits him to advance within about one hundred yards. If his appearance be hostile, and he continue to advance, the guard then warns the party by a shrill whistling noise, till they have all taken the alarm, when he joins them in the rear, and they all betake themselves to the more inaccessible parts of the mountains. Though this may appear an extraordinary account to those unacquainted with the prodigious instinctive powers of divers animals, powers wisely implanted for self preservation, and observant of their wild, or domestic habits, yet those of the shepherd's dog are no less conspicuous; and the following appropriate remarks illustrative of both.

“ The excellency of these dogs renders sheep pens, in a degree, unnecessary. If sheep require to be looked over, or examined, as to be handled by the butcher, or to be dressed, or cleaned, though it may require an hour's confinement, they are driven into a corner, and kept pent up there, by one or more dogs, until the business be completed.

“ If an experienced shepherd wish to inspect his flock, in a cursory way, he places himself in the middle of the field or piece they are depasturing, and, giving a whistle or a shout, the dogs and the *sheep* are equally obedient to the sound; the one flies from him with their swiftest speed, while the other, from every quarter, draw towards him in considerable haste, long before the dogs have time to approach them. The stragglers are driven in, by the circuitous route of the dogs; which keep flying round, from side to side, until the flock be gathered

round the shepherd, close enough, not only to be seen, but to be laid hold of, by him, if any thing wrong be suspected.”*

Indeed in such estimation was this breed of dogs, when cattle constituted one of the grand sources of wealth to the country, that in the laws of Hywell Dda, the legal price set upon one, properly broke in, and trained, for conducting the flocks, or herds, out to the pasturage in the morning, and reconducting them home at night; was considered of equal value with an *ox*, viz. sixty denarii; while the price of the house dog, whether the property of the king, or a subject, was estimated at only four: and a sheep at the same sum. If any doubt arose, as to the genuineness of the breed, or his having been pastorally trained, then the owner and a neighbour were to make oath, that he went with the flocks, or herds in the morning, and drove them with the stragglers home in the evening.†

Numerous *goats* formerly used to be bred among the mountains, many of which were so far domesticated, as to be regularly milked; but their numbers have been for some time fast diminishing; and soon will they cease to be considered, as constituting part of a farmer's stock. The cause assigned is, that the goat is very destructive to hedges and plantations, by nibbling the tender shoots, and decorticating the trunks of young trees;‡ but this surely is not an admissible reason in a district, where no hedges, nor scarcely any plantations are to be found? To a mountain farmer he must certainly prove a valuable animal. In the first place his keep costs nothing; he is not erratic, like the sheep, seldom straying far from his usual haunts.

* Marshall's Rural Economy of the West of England, Vol. I. p. 266.

† Leges Wallicæ, p. 252.

‡ It cannot be denied, that these animals, as they live by browsing, have a natural propensity, to crop the tops of tender branches, and to peel off the bark of young trees. And from the injury they did to vineyards, arose the rationale of the custom, among some ancient nations, of offering up in sacrifice, a goat, as a victim to *Bacchus*. Hence also the British proverb “*Nid Llysieuwraig ond gafr*,” no herbalist equal to the goat.

haunts. Even in the severest weather, he feels a disinclination to quit his native rocks; and during deep falls of snow, which prevent his reaching the heath and furze, he will contentedly feed on moss and lichens. The Welsh goats are far superior in size, and in the length and fineness of the hair, to those of most other countries; and in one instance, adduced by Mr. Pennant, the horns of a Cambrian he-goat measured three feet two inches in length, and three feet between the antlers, from tip to tip. These quadrupeds, however despicable in the rural economy of the modern Welsh farmers, contribute, where they are encouraged, in a variety of instances to the necessities of human life, as food, physic, clothing, and other multifarious uses. The kids through the autumn and winter months afford a cheap and plentiful fresh provision. The flesh of a castrated goat, *hyfyr*, when fatted, is esteemed excellent, and usually denominated rock venison. The haunches are frequently salted and dried, and this, called *coch yr wden*, is used in summer as a substitute for bacon. Goat skins are much used in the glove manufactories, and the finest ladies gloves are made of kid-leather. In the army it covers the horseman's arms, and carries the foot-soldiers clothes, and provisions.* The milk, exclusive of its use in making cheese, which affords a grateful repast to the mountaineers, is considered a succedaneum for that of the ass, and very salutiferous in cases of phtisis pulmonalis.† The suet also forms a valuable article, the candles made of it, being far superior in quality, to those composed of that obtained from sheep, or cattle. Nor are the horns without their use, being introduced by the sword and knife cutlers, as a substitute for buck's-horn in hilts to tucks, and handles to knives.

Swine. The native breed of pigs in this county is very similar,

* Were the Welsh and Scotch hills well stocked with goats, it might supersede the necessity of importing goat-hides from Russia, whence the furriers and skinnners obtain their chief supply.

† Numbers of wild goats are, by the inhabitants of this county, hunted, or run down by dogs, in the mode, that deer are, and shot for the sake of the hides and tallow.

milar, to that of several districts in Ireland. They are a thin carcassed, tall, ill-shaped kind of animals, having long heads and large ears; meagre in their form, and so little inclined by nature to obesity, that they must generally be kept two years before there is a prospect of their fattening kindly. Some few of the best sort in the kingdom, the Berkshire, have recently been introduced; and it now remains with the farmers, to chuse whether they will persevere in retaining their present unprofitable breed, or adopt one, which will yield more advantage, by fattening at nine months old, than their old sort will, at triple, or quadruple that age.

Little corn being raised, few domestic fowls are kept, the county being supplied with poultry from Anglesea; as it also is with rabbits principally, from the extensive warrens, between Llanfeirion and Llanfaelog.

Several improvements in rural economy, already made, and others about to be accomplished, have been previously noticed; it remains only to observe, that an *Agricultural society* has been lately formed in the county, consisting of the nobility and principal land proprietors, which from the communications it must necessarily obtain, and the premiums it may award, will doubtless soon produce the most beneficial effects.

Two powerful obstacles, however, still remain to be removed, before the laudable objects of this society can rationally be placed in a train for accomplishment; or the patriotic wishes of its members, likely to find their realization. The one originates in the nature of a considerable portion of the property belonging to this district; and the other is a consequence, in the manner of its disposal; either in fee simple, copyhold, or rack-rent tenancy. By a descriptive view of the crown lands* it will be seen, that much of the landed property in the county is vested in the king, and enumerated among the sources of his ordinary revenue. This extensive tract, in its present

* An anonymous 4to. volume, entitled "Observations on the land Revenues of the Crown, published by Debrett, 1797.

present state, is of little use to the crown; and very unproductive to the subjects: when, by a prudent management, it might be rendered highly advantageous to both. For this purpose it is desirable a bill should be passed, making the regal claims on the several demesnes, disposable by sale. By a statute enacted in the twenty-second year of Charles the second, the king was enabled by letters patent, to grant fee farm rents, due in right of his crown or of his duchies of Lancaster, or Cornwall, except quit-rents, &c. to trustees; these were empowered to convey the same by bargain and sale to purchasers, who were equally empowered by such condition, to obtain recovery of such lands, in like manner, as the monarch himself might. For a time, however, persons of property were so very doubtful of the title, to alienations of this nature, that while these rents were exposed to sale for ready money, scarcely any were bought, and the greater portion remained on the hands of the trust. But impediments, arising to the liquidation of the regal debts from other quarters, occasioned many of the creditors, to resort to this mode of payment, as the most eligible in that exigent conjuncture. The quantity of property thus sequestrated from the crown, soon became alarmingly great, and excited the jealousy of the nation; which wisely judged, that if the ordinary sources of the crown revenues were obstructed, recourse would necessarily be had to extraordinary means, for raising supplies, to support the dignity of the kingly office. This occasioned frequent parliamentary interferences. After William the third had, under the existing authority, greatly impoverished his inheritable estates, an act was passed in the reign of queen Anne*, by virtue of which, all subsequent grants, or leases for a longer period, than thirty-one years; whether in tail, or reversion, except in cases of houses; were declared null and void. The usual rent, it was stipulated, should be reserved, unless where usage had founded an exemption; then a rent-service, one third of the clear annual value: and the tenant was made

* 1 Ann. Stat. 1. c. 7.

made liable to punishment, for the committal of waste. "The misfortune in this business, as Blackstone judiciously observes, is, the act was made too *late*, after almost every valuable possession of the crown had been granted away for ever, or else upon very long leases; but it may be of some benefit to posterity, when those leases come to expire*." Yet since his time, events have changed the nature of the case, and as so little of this species of property is retained, and that almost entirely unproductive, it becomes a question, whether it would not be a matter of sound policy, to alienate the remainder, for a valuable consideration? By two statutes, passed in the present reign, commissioners were appointed to inquire into the state and condition of his majesty's hereditary woods, forests, and land revenues, to dispose of fee-farm, and other unimproveable rents: a measure peculiarly adviseable, under all the subsisting circumstances. No reason whatever now appears to exist why therefore a sale should not take place in Caernarvonshire, and other parts of Wales. Perhaps it would be eligible, as many paramountships in the crown, comprise several other complicate manors, accumulated by conquest, forfeiture, or succession, formerly granted out by regal authority, and incidentally reverting to the same; to sever the distinct manors from the aggregate mass, and dispose of them separately; providing by a valuation in the sale, the divisional allotments, the property of the King, as quit rents, manorial rights, &c. Or to avoid difficulty, the crown by its agents might negotiate as to these claims, in the first instance, with the respective freeholders. The scheme would raise a large sum of money, save a vast annual expence in the collecting of the regal rents, and prove an immediate, and permanent benefit to the country. By the state of property, above described, cultivation is checked, vegetation dwindles, the mountain pasture fattens no stock, worthy of notice, and frequently starves again, a considerable portion of what it breeds. Were the land once fairly and generally appropriated,

* Commentaries on the Laws of England, Vol. I. p. 286.

appropriated, encouragement would be afforded for planting: plantations would shelter, and warm the bleak ungenial wastes, and other consequent improvements soon introduce, a useful population. Urgent, in a legislative point of view, is the claim, and pressing applicable the complaint, that "North Wales has not had the attention it merits; it possesses sea and land as other countries, but systems have interposed, to check these advantages. The uses of these lands, are in a manner forbidden to us, by a heavy coal duty, of no profit to the state, (which might be relieved by commutation,) which renders our vast depot of lime, and it may be added the numerous minerals, requiring fuel for their reduction, half useless; and the same shores of the same island seem to front each other, not as natural friends and fellow subjects; but as rancorous rivals, and jealous enemies;

" *Littora littoribus contraria, fluctibus undas :**"

Another powerful, and mischief-working cause is, the unreasonable and impolitic method of letting farms, or small takings by *auction*. This is a most destructive practice, and loudly calls for immediate suppression. It has doubtless arisen from the frequent transfer of property in this district, by such a mode of sale: and the immediate management of estates, being too often confided to the discretionary power of attornies; who in general must be considered, professionally unacquainted with the practical value of the lands, they may have to let: and who cannot be supposed devoid of interest in the issue of such a mode of half compromise between landlord and tenant. Perhaps in certain cases, and under peculiar circumstances, the transfer of landed property by way of auction, might be eligible: but never can it be in cases of *letting* farms, for a year, nor a term of years. It may be said, that in selling an estate, an auction constitutes a suitable and convenient mode of disposal: the vendor obtains his price, either in money, or sufficient security,

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previous

* *Yorke's Royal Tribes of Wales*, p. 166.

previous to the delivery of seizin; and whether it be in fee simple, base tenure, or leasehold, the proprietor, or tenant *faisant*, is virtually exonerated. But in a rack rent, or yearly tenure, the case becomes widely different. The person, who is to pay his rent half-yearly, and placed under the necessity of submitting to various regulations, and bound by a number of covenants, and agreements, concomitants of such kind of tenancy, has a different part to act; and if possessed of agricultural knowledge, and inured to the patient habits of industry, essential to the conducting, with any prospect of success, an improvable farm; ought undoubtedly to have an indulgence, far beyond the mere prospect of the present day. In such a case, the *rent* should be a secondary consideration; the *man*, his capabilities, his competency, either arising from property, or energy, or both combined, should be the points for the determination of a landlord's selection of his tenant: if he wish to see the improveable estate improved. For it cannot have escaped the most superficial observer of farms, and their management, subject to such exorbitant enhanced rents, and great limitations, respecting to the usufructuage of the land; that little can reasonably be expected, without an extension of tenure, and a latitude, subject to certain conservative restrictions, as to general occupation. Under the present system the upright yeoman, or the industrious tenant stands no equal chance with the unprincipled small landholder, in the vicinity, or the theoretical speculatist. It must be obvious, that among the numerous candidates, who appear at auctions, held for letting farms, are various descriptions of characters; some unfortunate men, who wish, and must find an asylum; others, who want judgment, and are over-persuaded to engage in the concern, because it is larger and a more respectable one, than that in which they had previously been engaged; and some, and those not a few, men of desperate fortunes, who in want of a temporary subsistence, or to cover an ill-conditioned concern, at a distance, will make an ephemeral show, and far outbid the man, whose experience is

good, and integrity sound. It is too obvious, too notorious to remark, that such men will be the highest bidders in these mountain marts, and will consequently be preferred, from the conditions of sale, to those, who by their capital might have insured the rent, or by their practical information and patriotic desire, would, but for the absurd mode in question, have doubtlessly lent the conjoint aid of their abilities and property, for the amelioration of the estates. Men, who are likely regularly to pay their rent, attend to necessary covenanted, or uncovenanted repairs; endeavour under proper encouragement to improve the land: these are the tenants, which should be selected by judicious managers of landed property—such ought to meet with every suitable encouragement, and after long and successful tenancy, be enabled in their leasehold renewals to leave as a boon, extracted from their labours and exertions, a noble, because the meed of industry, patrimony, to their posterity. The annual value of farms is easily ascertained, according to situation, the price of produce, the facility of bringing it to a market, and the current relative price; and no person ought to be entrusted with any land, much less the management of an estate, who is not fully competent to ascertain its intrinsic and comparative value; and after having ascertained that value, by moderate estimation, does not prefer a person of judgment, and capital to any *nominal rent*, offered by unprincipled or erroneous speculation. “It may be said with little latitude, that in the end it is equally detrimental to an estate, to over-rent it, as it is to let it beneath its fair rental value. This is an axiom of management which is well known to every man of landed property, who has persevered in paying attention to his own affairs; and which has cost some men no small share of property, respectability, and peace of mind, to come at the knowledge of*.”

Bridges and roads. Though Caernarvonshire can boast of

* Marshall's Rural Economy of the West of England, Vol. I. p. 75.

no navigable river, except a partial claim to the Conwy, that forms its eastern boundary; yet it is watered by numerous streams, which, when swelled by mountain torrents, require bridges for carrying over the roads, to be of greater length, than would be otherwise requisite over similar rivulets in a champagne country. This elongation is obtained in two ways, by extending the span, or chord of a single arch, or continuing the structure in the manner of a regular, or irregular arcade. Thus diversified in their shapes, and chiefly erected not at right angles with the margin, but in an oblique direction, they constitute very ornamental objects in the scenery of the district. The art pontifical, or that of bridge building, seems very generally diffused through Wales, and almost every common mason in this country understands the principles of construction. Among many others, for bridges have almost precluded the necessity of fords, may be enumerated, Pont Seiont, Pont Newydd, Pont Dolbadern, Pont Aber-glas-llyn, Pont y Gwyrid, Pont y Pair, Pont Dalgarrrog, Pont Porth Llwyd, Pont Sychnaut, Pont Aber, Pont Legid, &c. &c.

The roads of this district, from having been perhaps the worst, are now, if not the best, at least equal to any in the principality. The road from Conway to Bangor, fifteen miles, over the immense mountainous, and alarming pass of Penmaen mawr is too well known, to be particularly noticed here: as is also the twelve miles of beautifully scenic road, along the western margin of the river, swelled with “the foaming flood” of Gray, from Llanrwst to Conway. But the improvement it has experienced within a very few years in this particular, is truly surprising; and reflects the highest credit upon the munificence, public spirit, and judicious conduct of the nobility and gentry of the county. An excellent road, almost upon a level, extends from Caernarvon to Beddgelert, a space of twelve miles. This is met by one, coming from the westward; commencing at Tre-Madoc, and passing through the beautiful and romantic vale of Nant Hwynant, in a north easterly direction, coalesces

with another proceeding from the north at Capel Cerrig*. This road has been formed under the auspices of Mr. Madocks, and the portion of it from Tre-Madoc to Pont Aber-glas-llyn, affords a striking instance of what may be accomplished by the combined powers of science, capital, and persevering industry. Previous to the construction of this road, the way to Criccieth and the southern parts of the county was either by a circuitous route over the mountains, or along the sands of the Traeth mawr, impassable when the tide was in, and dangerous when it was out. The almost perpendicular rocks, that form the north western boundary of the Traeth, have been assailed by gunpowder, and an excellent road has been carried, as it were like a shelf, along the sides of the cliffs, above high water mark, and where necessity pointed out, is also defended by a wall.

What Mr. Pennant describes, as in his time "the most dreadful horse path in Wales, worked in the rudest manner into steps for a great length," has since by the enterprising and generous spirit of the late Lord Penrhyn, been converted into an excellent carriage road, which now forms the most frequented thoroughfare to, and from Ireland†. Exclusive of the distance, being by the line shortened ten miles, this road becomes inviting to the traveller, from the grandeur of the scenery, and the multifarious improvements, effected by the energetic genius of the late noble owner of Penrhyn, in the formerly desolate tract of Nant Francon. The new portion of the road commences at the village of Llandegai, near Bangor, passes by Capel Cerrig to Bettws-y-coed, where leaving the county, it proceeds to Pentre Voelas, in the county of Denbigh: an extent of twenty four miles. The leading trait to these wonderful improvements, and probably the inducive cause, that roused the long dormant

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spirit

* This is the usual orthography; but recently *Curig*, the name of the patron saint to whom the church is suppositiously dedicated, has been substituted in writing.

† The mail coach from London to Holyhead, through Shrewsbury, which used to pass by Llanrwst and Conway, has for some time run along this road, as well as the heavy coach.

spirit of local amelioration, was, the new road, constructed from Caernarvon to Pwllheli, which made visibly manifest the value of a portion of country, previously little frequented, and less thought of. Itinerant trade, which had almost exclusively terminated at the former, now regularly extends to the latter, place by a tolerable carriage road having been taken in the most eligible direction for a distance of twenty miles.

Another road was at the same time projected, to form a communication between Caernarvon and Llanrwst by way of Capel Cerrig, over Bwlch yr Eisteddfa, or Gorphwysfa, through Nant Peris, on the western side of the lakes to Caernarvon. A portion of this, as far as the new slate quarries, in the parish of Llanrûg, has already been constructed: and as another act is about to be obtained, for enlarging the powers of the old, which will expire in 1811, respecting new branches of turnpike road, there is not a doubt, but the remainder will soon be completed. This line will diminish the distance of road between the above-mentioned places, even compared with that by the vale of Nant Francon, six miles, in twenty eight: besides the advantages that would accrue to estates in the vicinity of Nant Peris, and Nant Hwynant.

Another road was lately proposed, to pass from Tre-Madoc, in a diagonal line, across the peninsular part of the county, to Porth yn Llyn, near the town of Nevin; and to communicate with the Merionethshire roads by a new embankment across the Traeth mawr; and thus opening a communication between London, and this part of Caernarvonshire, by way of Dolgelleu. An act, which among other subjects embraced this plan, was obtained in the year 1806; but till the embankment be finished, though much has been done, it cannot be expected this should find a thorough completion.

Trade and Manufactures. Caernarvonshire possesses very little internal trade, and for centuries has been a stranger to manufactures. Its commercial concerns were, till very lately confined to the port of Caernarvon, and its collateral dependencies; but from the spirited conduct of the late Lord Penrhyn, and

and Mr. Smith, a considerable trade has been carried on in the article of *slates*. A few years since the wool of the county, except what was home-spun, and custom-wove, was sold in a raw state, and sent to be manufactured in different parts of the kingdom. But the technic spirit of improvement has recently been extremely active; several manufactories, containing various machinery, have lately been erected; to which the superabundant supply of water at all seasons of the year, affords both power and facility for conducting the diverse manipulations. In the parishes of Llanrûg, Llanwnda, &c. &c. scribbling and carding engines, with Jennies and Billies for luffing and spinning, have been set up, which prepare the woollen or worsted yarn for hire; and in some cases it is manufactured into cloth. A very large manufactory has lately been erected at Tre-Madoc for the weaving druggets and coarse army cloth; and the example will probably be followed in a way, that will soon evince to a county of such capabilities, that, in conjunction with other improvements, much remains to be done, to ascertain the extent of its intrinsic value. A paper-mill has been set up in the former parish, and at present is the only one in this department of North Wales.

Civil divisions, &c. Caernarvonshire is, for ecclesiastical government, comprehended in the diocese of Bangor, and province of Canterbury: and for the administration of justice placed in the North Wales circuit, including the three counties of Anglesea, Caernarvon, and Merioneth. The assizes are attended by two justices, one in eyre, and one in adjuvante. By virtue of the annexation of the principality to the kingdom of England, and consequent legal union with the country, as to usages, privileges, and forms of proceeding, by an act passed in the thirty-fourth year of Henry the eighth, Wales was divided into twelve counties, and those subdivided into four precincts, or circuits. Over each of which the presiding judge was allowed an annual salary of fifty pounds a year. Subsequently, by an act of parliament, made in the reign of Elizabeth,*

* Stat. 18. cap. 8.

one other justice assistant was ordained, to attend the sessions with the former appointed justices; so that now, each of the said circuits have two judges, viz. one chief, and the other the assistant justice. According to the ancient division of Wales, as established by the juridical code of Hywel Dda, a *cantref* comprised two *cwmwrds*, comots, or wapentakes, a *cwmwd* twelve manors, and each manor four townships. The following division of Caernarvonshire is given by two writers of great eminence and weight in the affairs of Cambria. “The second part of North Wales was called Arfon, which is as much as to say, over against Môn; and had in it four cantreds, and ten comots. *Cantref Aber* had in it three comots, Y Lhechwed huchaf, Y Lhechwed-isaf and Nant-Conway. *Cantref Arfon* had two comots, Ywch Gwyrfai, and Is Gwyrfai. *Cantref Dunodig* had two comots Ardudwy and Eflonyth. *Cantref Llyn* containeth three comots, Cymytmayn, Tirlhayn, and Canologion. This is now called Caernarvonshire, as Môn is called Angleseyshire, and have the same division at this day.”* The county at present is divided into ten divisions, commonly called hundreds, viz. *Creyddyn*, *Isaf*, *Uchaf*, *Nant Conway*, *Isgwrfai*, *Eflonedd*, *Uchgwrfai*, *Dinlaen*, *Gafflogion*, and *Cwmwd maen*. It contains one city, Bangor, the county and borough town of Caernarvon, and four other market towns, viz. Aberconway, Nevin, Criccieth, and Pwllheli, and sixty-eight villages.

Little now presents itself as to *honorial* history. The county town gives the title of earl to a younger branch of the noble and distinguished house of *Pembroke*, the brief history of which would require volumes to narrate. The family originally was of Welsh descent. *Thomas ap Gwillim ap Jenkin*, in the reign of Richard the Second, married Maud, daughter of Sir John Morley of Ragland Castle in Monmouthshire. Sir William ap Thomas, his son, had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him, for his valour in the French wars, by Henry the Fifth. His issue assumed the name of *Herbert*. From the second son, Sir Richard Herbert of Colebrook, were descended the Herberts, of

* Price's Description of Cambria, edited by Humphry Lloyd, p. 1.

of Cherbury; of which family was the historical, philosophical, and right whimsical peer, Edward Herbert, the first baron of Cherbury. Of the primary branch, William, the eldest son of Sir William ap Thomas, was created earl of Pembroke, in the eighth year of Edward the Fourth. From him descended that able statesman, great scholar, and eminent soldier, William earl of Pembroke, whom Camden describes as “an extraordinary man, who was in some sort the raiser of his own fortune.” He flourished under four princes of different aspects, and in difficult times. Thomas the eighth earl made the celebrated collection of statues, that still continue to attract the attention of the virtuosi to *Wilton house*. The honourable William Herbert, fourth son of this Thomas, by Margaret, only daughter, and sole heiress of Sir Robert Sawyer, knt. of Highclere in Hampshire, attorney-general to Charles the Second, inherited his mother’s estates at Highclere; and died a major-general in the army, in the year 1757; leaving several children, of whom Henry the eldest survivor, was created lord Porchester, October 17, 1780; and *earl of Caernarvon*. July 3, 1793.

Gwydir gives the title of baron to the family of *Burrell*. Peter Burrell, of Langley Park, near Beckingham in Kent, married lady Priscilla Barbara Elizabeth, sister and co-heiress of the late duke of Ancaster, and who was confirmed, in her own right, baroness Willoughby de Eresby. On the trial of Warren Hastings he officiated as deputy great chamberlain of England, and on that occasion received the honour of knighthood. On the death of Sir Merrick Burrell, bart. in 1787, he collaterally succeeded to the baronetage; and May 28, 1796, was created *lord Gwyder*, of Gwyder, in Caernarvonshire.

This county, from the twenty-seventh year of Henry the Eighth’s reign, has had the privilege of sending two members to parliament, viz. one for the shire, and one for the county town. The elective franchise, in the former case, belongs to the freemen at large; in the latter, the right of election is vested in the burgesses of Caernarvon, Criccieth, Pwllheli, Nevin, and Conway. By the returns, made to government
under

under the population act, the number of houses was 8433, and inhabitants 41,520, viz, 19,586 males, and 21,935 females: of which number 4234 were represented as employed in various branches of trade, and 12,808 as occupied in husbandry. It pays one part of the land-tax, and provides one hundred and twenty men* to the national militia, exclusive of the local. The gross amount of the property-tax appears by the returns made in 1806, to have been 131,800*l.* and the annual sum raised for the maintenance of the poor 9137*l.* forming an average of four shillings and three farthings in the pound.

In addition to its honorial distinctions, and elective franchises, the ancient and peculiar privileges of this district may be considered worthy of narration. They are denominated the "*Breinniau gwyr Arfon*;" or The privilege of the men of Arfon. These were granted by Rhun ap Maelgwyn, who succeeded his father in the government of North Wales, A. D. 560. This prince, who resided at Caerhŷn, and was engaged in long and sanguinary warfare with the Northumbrian Saxons, as a boon for eminent services, granted several favours and immunities to the inhabitants of Caernarvonshire, on account of their good conduct, and having been detained so long absent from their wives and families, in the northern expedition. The following curious account of these privileges, fourteen in number, and the occasion of their having been conferred, are extracted from the copy of the Laws of Hywel Dda, in the library belonging to the Welsh school, Gray's-Inn-Lane, London.† From this valuable document, it appears, that the Welsh females, though characterized by a considerable portion of the simplicity of manners, peculiarly eminent in ancient Greece, were not possessed of the like unassailable chastity with such ladies as Penelope.

" In

* 42 George III. cap. 90. The author here avails himself of the earliest opportunity of correcting an error, that inadvertently crept into the general account of the principality, respecting the militia. The account there given was, among other legal information, furnished by a respectable barrister. "*Decipimur specie recti.*"

† Cambrian Register for 1786. p. 300.

“ In a certain period was slain Elidyr the courteous, a person from the north: and after he was killed, the men of the north came here to revenge him. That is to say, the men who came as leaders for them were Clydno Eidyn, and Nudd the generous, son of Senyllt, and Mordav the generous, son of Servan, and Rhydderch the generous, son of Tudawal Tudglyd; and they came to Arvon. And, as Elidyr was slain at Abet Mewedus in Arvon, they burnt Arvon in excess of revenge. Thereupon Rhun, the son of Maelgon, prepared for war, and the men of Gwynedd with him; and they came to the side of Gweryd in the north; and there they were long disputing who ought to go in the van through the river Gweryd. Upon which Rhun dispatched a messenger as far as Gwynedd, to know who had a right to the lead. Some declared, from Maeldav the elder, chieftain of Penardd, and adjudged it to the men of Arvon; Jorwerth, the son of Madog, by the authority of history, maintains it, from Idno the old, to the men with the black-pointed shafts; and thereupon the men of Arvon went in the van, and they behaved well there; and so Taliesin sung:

“ Cygleu wrth wres eu llanen
 Gan Rûn yn rudher bydyneu
 Gwyr Arfon rydyon yn rydiheu.”

Behold amid the heated blades
 Where, red with blood in fields of death
 Arfan's warriors pant for breath.

And then from the length of time that they tarried in the warfare, their wives slept with their bond-servants; and therefore Rhun gave them fourteen privileges.

The first, priority over a wife: that is, priority in the choice of the horses, and his swine, and his geese; and a car, with two oxen, that he likes of his cattle: and the car full of the furniture, that he may like.

The second is, to have the lead of Gwynedd in warfares.

The third is, that he shall not pay the damage of his animal.

The

The fourth is, to fix the boundaries of the districts that shall join to Arvon.

The fifth is, if there should be a dispute between two townships, out of the nine townships, that are in Arvon, the seven shall end the dispute of the two, without the interference of any from elsewhere.

The sixth, that there shall be no serjeant therein.

The seventh, that there be liberty of fishing, in common in the three rivers which are there.

The eighth,

The ninth, that they shall not be obliged to use the nearest mill.

The tenth, that they shall not drink half-fermented liquor.

The eleventh, that there is no advantage to be taken of their pleadings before the third word of error.

The twelfth, there shall be no payment towards the horses of guests, or of persons on circuit.

The thirteenth, that they shall not be obliged to go to another lodging out of the hall.

The fourteenth, whoever shall be settled therein for a year and a day, if he should be an undomiciliated person, he shall have the same rights as a person of the country.

And if there shall be any one who shall call in question any of these privileges, the brotherhood of Bangor and those of Beuno, shall maintain them.

These are differently worded in a Welsh manuscript (about 1000 years old) intitled the "Triades of the isle of Britain." Two of the privileges have been obliterated, the remaining twelve are as follow :

1. That the husband should have priority over his wife in the choice of horses, swine, and geese, and in the choice of two oxen of the cattle, and a cart load of household utensils.

2. That the men of Arvon should lead the vanguard of the army of North Wales.

3. That their beasts should be free from toll.

4. That



For the Boundaries of England & Wales.

CAERNARVON,
North Wales.

Engraved by S. Rowe, from a Drawing by J. H. Wade.

4. That they should settle the boundaries of all the hundreds joining upon Arvon.

5. If any variance happened between two of the nine manors of Arvon, that the remaining seven, without the interference of any others, should end the strife.

6. That there should be no beadle or bailiff in their hundred.

7. That the men of Arvon should have the right of fishing in the three principal rivers which are in it.

8. That they should not be tied to the hand mill,*

9. That in their proceedings at law there should be no delay.

10. That they should not be obliged to pay for the horses of strangers, or of the minstrels on their annual circuits.

11. That when they come to the palace of the prince, they ought not to go out for their lodging.

12. That whoever settled in Arvon, and lived within it for a year and a day, even though he were an alien, should have all the liberties of an inborn or denizen."

CAERNARVON,

Is a place early distinguished in the annals of history. The *Segontium* of the Itinerary was the only station the Romans possessed in this part of Cambria; and a few detached out-posts, the communications between which are visible in fragments of their roads, still mark the progress and extent of the imperial eagle. The site of the ancient city a short distance from the present town, and intersected by the turnpike road, affords a high treat to the antiquary. The shape is an oblong square, or parallelogram; comprising a space of about seven acres, on the summit of a small elevation. Some vestiges of walls are still remaining, and in one part was lately discovered the remnant of
a building

* The meaning of this is, that they should not be compelled, as slaves, to grind corn at the hand-mills of the princes, or great men.

a building, constructed with tiles covered with smooth plaistering, supposed to have been an *hypocaust*. Near the declivous bank of the Seiont was a strong fort, to secure a landing place from the river, at the time of high water. This was also of an oblong shape, including an area of about one acre. Two sides have the walls nearly intire. One is in length seventy four yards, the other sixty four; the height from eleven to twelve feet; and the thickness six. A considerable portion of the stone facing having been removed, for the purposes of building, the peculiarity of Roman masonry becomes very appparent. The Romans constructed their buildings after a different method from the one in use at present. First they placed the stones upon each other according to plastic order, generally in alternate courses; the one regular, or horizontal, and the other zigzag, or herring-bone fashion. Boiling mortar, that is, mortar made with new slacked lime, was then poured upon the stones, which by the fluidity insinuated itself into all the interstices of the work; and thus by its tenacious contactive adherence bound the irregular pieces of stone into one compact solid mass; inseparable, but by a force adequate to demolish the whole: the cement becoming equally hard and durable as the stone. Along the walls, passing through the intire thickness, in parallel lines, run three rows of circular holes, about three inches in diameter. Similar holes are discoverable at the ends of the walls extending lengthwise. Much conjectural learning has been displayed in endeavouring, to ascertain the original design and use of these apertures. According to the opinion of some antiquaries, they were made for the purpose of discharging arrows, or other missile weapons, at an enemy. But the length and contractedness are silencing objections against such an opinion. Whitaker observes*, that by chance he met with a hole of this kind, that was accidentally laid open from end to end, on a Roman wall, which he thought disclosed the design of the rest. He supposes, that, as the Romans carried upwards their ram-

parts,

* History of Manchester.

parts, they by making holes, and forming small arches in their walls, took off from the pressure on the parts below; and thus gave strength and durability to the whole. This could not be the case at Segontium: the openings are too narrow, and too far distant to afford any bearing relief. Others have supposed, the purpose was for fixing the horizontal poles, on which were erected the scaffolds for the accommodation of the masons; and left unfilled up, by accident, or design. It is however an allowable conjecture, that they were formed for the admission of air into the interior of the work, to harden the liquid cement, poured in; and thus giving it greater stability. Near the corner of one of these walls, is a heap of stones, which once formed a circular bastion tower; and from foundations discovered in digging, there appears to have originally been one at each angle.

This place was manifestly connected with Constantine; and from a stone found in a subterraneous vault, inscribed S. V. C*. is supposed to have been once his residence. In Welsh it is called *Caer Custeint*, or the city of Constantius†; Rowland's remarks, in his scheme of succession for the regal government of Wales, that Constantius, to secure himself on the British throne, endeavoured to form a family alliance with *Coel Godlebog*, in whom at that time, by virtue of the pendragonate, centred the united rights of the most powerful monarchs in the island. With this view he requested and obtained in marriage *Tiboen*, the daughter of the British king: and that she, in Latin called *Helena*‡, was the mother of the son and successor of Constantius,

* A gold coin, equivalent to seventeen shillings was found amid the ruins, inscribed T. DIVI AUG. FIL. AUGUSTUS.

† In the fields south east of the camp, Sir Richard Colt Hoare discovered several pieces of fine red glazed Roman pottery.

‡ *Mona Antiqua*, Vol. p. 162. Mr. Gibbon observes, "Notwithstanding the recent tradition, which assigns for her father a British king, we are obliged to confess, that Helena was the daughter of an innkeeper. On which he thus animadvert in a note. This tradition unknown to the contemporaries of Constantine

Constantius, Constantine the great. The author “ of Flores Historiarum ” informs us, that the father of that emperor was interred here ; and in the reign of Edward the first, A. D. 1283, the body was found in digging, and honourably re-interred in the adjacent church* : although in another part of the same work, it is stated, that Constantius died at York. A chapel is also said to have been founded here by Helen, the daughter of Octavius, duke of Cornwall ; and wife of Maximus, first cousin of Constantine, who was born at Segontium†. This was standing within the last century, and a well, by the fort still retains the name of that princess, near which are strewed considerable ruins.

Segontium was for a long time the residence of the British princes. Cadwallo, the son of Cadfan appears to have first fixed the court at this place. The security and plenty of provisions it afforded, induced the sovereign, involved in almost perpetual warfare, to place their families in safety here ; while they pursued their military career for the annoyance of the enemy and the defence of their own territories. About the period in question, the Irish and Pictish rovers were extremely troublesome to the western coasts of Britain ; particularly Anglesea, which was much less defensible, than the sea-front of Caernarvonshire. But these causes having been subsequently removed, the royal seat was again fixed at Aberfraw where it had originally been placed by Caswallon Law-hir in the fourth century‡.

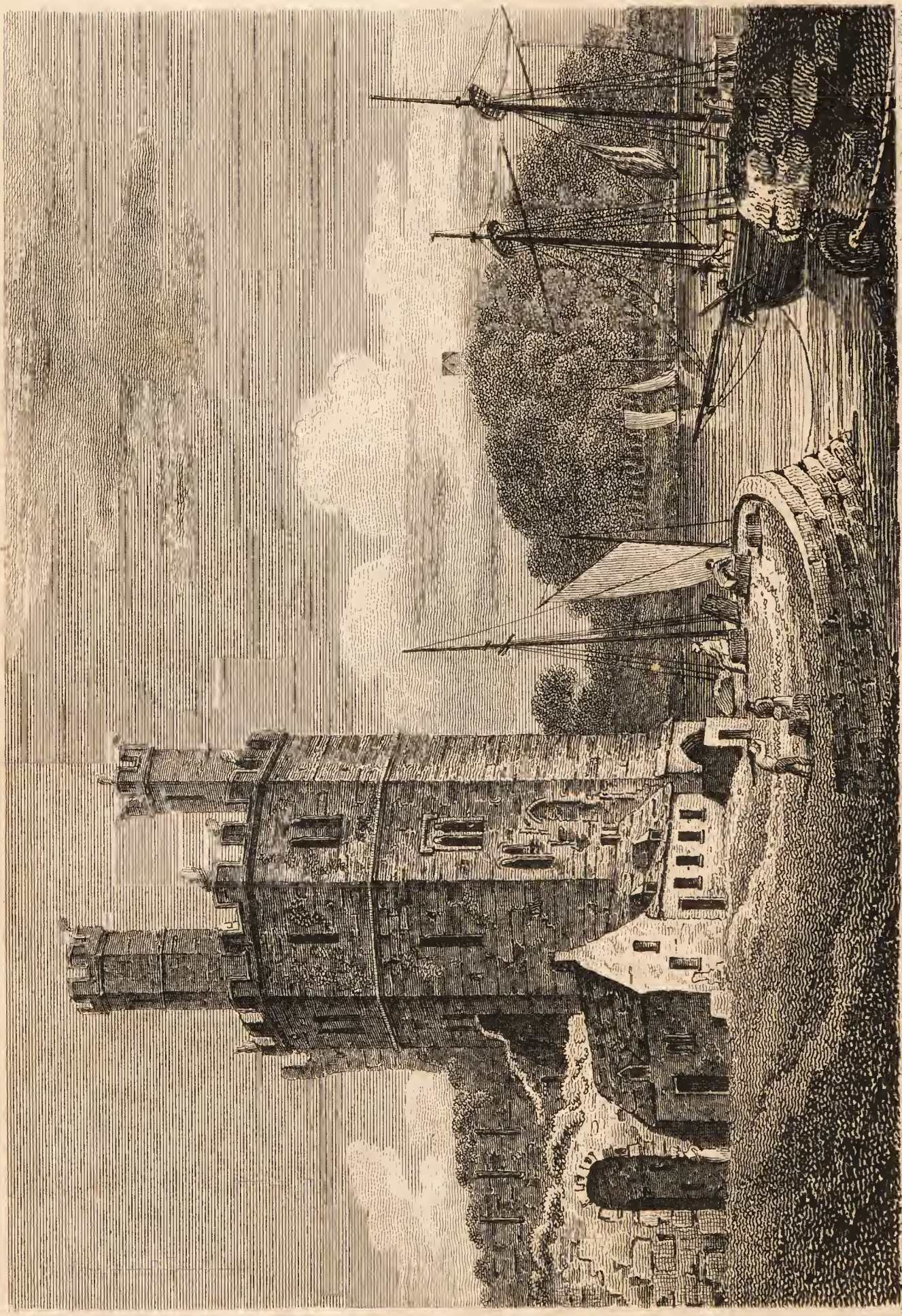
The present Caernarvon, which derives its appellation from *Caer*, a fortress, *yn*, in, and *Arfon*, the district opposite Môn, or Anglesea, that is the strong hold in Arfon ; has generally been supposed to have originated in the time of Edward the first.

But

stantine was invented in the darkness of monasteries, was embellished by Jeffrey of Monmouth, and the writers of the XIIth century, has been defended by our antiquarians of the last age, and is seriously related in the ponderous History of England, compiled by Mr. Carte,” *Decline and fall of the Roman Empire.* Vol. II. p. 165.

* *Mona Antiqua*, p. 165.

† *Mona Antiqua*, p. 149.



For the Beauties of England and Wales.

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Engraved by J. Sturt.

But it was in being, long previous to that period, and was probably the British town, that subsisted under the protection of the Romans, what is now considered the ancient Segontium having been exclusively confined to the use of the Roman military. Giraldus Cambrensis mentions passing through it in the year 1188;* the author of the life of Gryffydd, the son of Cynan observes, that Hugh earl of Chester, who had dethroned the Welsh monarch, and over-run nearly the whole of North Wales, to secure his conquests and facilitate future inroads, erected four fortresses; one at Aberllynawg in Anglesea, another in Meirion, a third at Bangor, and a fourth at this place, then denominated *Hên Caer Custennif*. Llewelin the great also dates a charter, granted to the priory of Penmon, from it, in the year 1221. The probability therefore is against the idea of the present town having been a creation of the conqueror. To a judicious and able warrior like Edward, however, the place presented a situation admirably adapted for constituting a fortified post, for the purpose of curbing his newly acquired country. The position was naturally strong, bounded on one side by the Menai straits, on another by the estuary of the Seiont, on a third by a creek of the Menai, and the remainder has been apparently insulated by art. This fortress, it has been justly observed, from whatever point, or from whatever distance it is viewed, assumes a romantic singularity of appearance, and an air of grandeur, that while it excites awe, affords pleasure to the beholder; and some of its noble walls, going fast to decay, excite a melancholy sigh, at the dilapidating powers of hoary-headed time.

Caernarvon castle forms an era in the history of this part of the country. After the completion of his conquest, Edward the first, in 1282, undertook the great work, which still remains a proof of his achievements. It is said to have been built within the space of *one year*. This will not appear surprising, notwithstanding the magnitude of the building, when it is taken

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into

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 83.

† Vita Griff. fil. Conani.

into consideration, that the chieftains of the country had the painful task, imposed upon them, to procure artisans and labourers, and to find money to liquidate the expences of the work. A record, however, formerly belonging to the exchequer of Caernarvon states, that it was *twelve* years in building, and the revenues of the archbishoprick of York, which had for the purpose been kept vacant, were applied toward defraying the expences of its erection. *Henry Ellerton*, or *de Elreton*, received the appointment of master mason to this castle; a term in that day, equivalent to architect in ours: under whom were doubtless employed numbers of excellent workmen: for Mr. Pennant justly observes, “the Welsh peasants were no more than cutters of wood and hewers of stone.” The walls of Segontium afforded a portion of the materials; Anglesea furnished the lime-stone, and the breccia was brought from the vicinity of Vaenol. The conveyance of these ponderous materials was greatly facilitated by the navigation of the Menai.

The first who received the high responsibility, attached to the care of this important fortress, was *John de Havering*, with an annual salary of two hundred marks, out of which sum, he was to maintain a force of fourscore men, fifteen of them cross-bowmen, a chaplain, surgeon, and smith; the residue were to do the duty of watch and ward. The establishment, however, was subsequently different, and is thus detailed by Sir John Dodridge. “The constable of the castle of Caernarvon, his fee was uncertain, sometimes 60*l.* and sometimes but 40*l.* The captain of the town of Caernarvon, his fee was yearly 12*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* and sometimes one man had both the offices of constable of the castle and captain of the town, having 60*l.* yearly for both the offices. There were allowed sometime unto the said constable, and captain, 24 soldiers, for the safe custody of the castle and town, and every of them was allowed 4*d.* per diem, amounting in the whole unto 146*l.* by the year. The porter of the gates of the said town of Carnarvon whose fee was yearly 3*l.* 10*d.*”

Edward

* An historical account of the ancient and modern state of the principality of Wales, p. 56.

Edward probably made his distinguished favourite Sir *Roger de Pulesdon*, afterwards constable; who in 1284 had been appointed sheriff, and keeper of Anglesea, and resided at a mansion in this town, called after his name, Plas Pulesdon. For in the year 1294, having been commanded to levy a subsidy for the French war, a new impost with which the Welsh had till then been unacquainted, they flew to arms, and seizing on Sir Roger, caused him to be hanged, and then decapitated the body: a similar fate attended all his associates, concerned in the collection of the odious tax*. Soon after, the insurgents, whom Leland styles *Nivicollini*†, under their leader Madoc, an illegitimate son of the unfortunate prince Llewelyn, during a fair in the month of July, attacked Caernarvon, and, on its surrender, massacred all the English inhabitants in cold blood: at the same time setting fire to the place. Nor was it repossessed by the English, till the king had in person taken the command of his army‡. Very few events have been narrated, respecting this fortress, posterior to that period. In the year 1402, the town was blockaded by a party of insurgents, under the direction of Owen Glyndwr; which was bravely defended for king Henry, by *Jevan ap Meredydd*§, to whom with *Meredydd ap Hwlkin Llwyd*, of *Glynllifon*, under the command of an English captain, had been committed, the custody of the castle. On this occasion, so closely was the place invested, that it was found expedient to carry the corpse of *Jevan*, who died during the siege, by sea, round the peninsular part of the country, for interment, at Penmorfa. On the breaking out of the civil wars Caernarvon was seized, in behalf of the Parliament, by *Captain Swanley*, who, in 1644, took, on the surrender of the town, four hundred prisoners, and a very considerable quantity of arms, and ammunition. The royalists, however, appear to

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have

* In 1289 *Adam de Wetenhall* held the distinguished office.

† *Collectanea*, Vol. III. p. 405.

‡ Owen had previously, for *Jevan*'s adherence to the Lancastrian cause had subjected to conflagration his mansions of *Gefn y Fan*, and *Cesail gyfarch*.

have been soon in repossession, for in 1646, it was besieged by the troops under generals Mytton, and Langhorn, to whom it was surrendered upon honourable conditions by the governor, *Lord Byron*. In 1648, General Mytton was in turn besieged in the town, by a small force under that eminent loyalist, Sir John Owen; but having received intelligence, that *Colonels Carter and Twisselton*, were marching with a superior army, to relieve the place, he raised the siege, and marched to meet the rebels. Near Llandegai, a furious rencontre ensued, in which Sir John was defeated, and made prisoner; after which disastrous event, the whole of North Wales submitted to the Parliamentary authority.

The following curious letter shews the griping hand of Republican policy, and exhibits at the same time the mild and benevolent character of Fairfax.

From Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX to THOMAS GLYNNE, Governor of Caernarvon Castle, dated Dec. 4th, 1647.

“ SIR,

“ I understand that since I sent you down to Caernarvon Castle, there hath been several somes of monie leavied by you upon ye county, in a far greater proportion then that countie doth pay towards ye assessments of ye army. Many of ye inhabitants have been imprisoned, and much offence given thereby, under pretence of authorities from me, by my desiring that care may be taken of yt garrison, which was not intended by me yt any oppression should be exercised upon the county. I therefore desire you yt for ye future ye like may be forborne, yt no monie be leavied in any way but by immediate ordinance of Parliament, and yet notwithstanding that garrison may not be unprovided for, I do think fit that the assessments paid by that countie for the payment of the 600l. per mensem, shall goe towards ye satisfaction of ye soldiers, which for the present you keep in that garrison, which I conclude, well husbanded, will be sufficient for that service. I remain,

“ Your assured friend,

“ THOMAS FAIRFAX.”

The

The property of the castle is still vested in the crown. Formerly it was held by the Wynnes of Glynllifon, and Gwydir; then by the Bulkeleys of Baron Hill; afterwards by the Mostyns of Gloddaeth, and at present, by the *earl of Uxbridge*. The external walls of this castle are almost intire, and exhibit nearly the shape of the building, as it was in the time of the royal founder. It occupies a large space at the west end of the town, and was a place of such strength, that prior to the introduction of artillery in warfare, might have defied almost any portion of force, to accomplish its subjugation. On two sides it was environed by water, and on the margin was an embattled terrace. The third side was evidently defended by a foss, which probably extended round the fourth. The walls are from eight to ten feet thick, and have within their thickness, a narrow gallery, with convenient oeillets, or slips, for the discharge of arrows at the assailants. Above the embattled parapet, ascend in majestic grandeur, numerous turreted towers, not uniform, but pentagonal, hexagonal, and octagonal in their shape. Two of these are more lofty, than the rest. The *Eagle tower*, so called, from a figure of that bird, carved in stone, forming part of its ornaments,* has the addition of three elegant turrets issuing from the top, and is remarkably beautiful. The principal entrance into the castle is peculiarly grand, beneath a massy tower, on the front of which is a statue of *Edward*, in a menacing posture, with a sword half drawn in his hand, apparently threatening death and destruction to his newly-ac-

2 A 3

quired,

* This figure is supposed to be of Roman fabrication, and it is said to be found by Edward on one of the towers at Segontium. Jupiter is fabled to have borne an eagle on the top of his standard, after the auspicious issue of his expedition against the Titans, which had been previously augured by the flight of an eagle to him, in his camp. In imitation of the Deity, princes adopted the use of a similar figure on their sceptres. Amongst the Persians the eagle was the ornament of their military standard, and hence came the custom among the Romans, to bear an eagle in the field, not as at present, displayed upon a banner, but in an image upon the top of a spear. A custom that has been followed by the ambition of Napoleon, emperor of the French.

quired, yet still restive, and reluctant subjects. This gate, by the remaining grooves, evidently was defended by four portcullises. The area within is oblong, but of an irregular shape, and was formerly divided into two parts, forming an outer, and inner court. The internal part of this stupendous monument of ancient grandeur is much more dilapidated, than would be expected from viewing the outside; many of the buildings lie in ruinous heaps; and the rooms, contained within the towers, are mere skeletons. What are called the state apartments, appear to have been extremely commodious, lighted by spacious windows, with elegant tracery. These externally exhibit a square front, but internally are all polygonal; some of the sides having been formed out of the thickness of the walls. A gallery, or covered way appears to have extended completely round the interior of the castle, forming a general communication with the whole of the building: of this about seventy yards is nearly intire. The gate through which the truly duteous, and affectionate Eleanor, wife of the conqueror, made her political entry into this proud pile, destined to convert independence into submission, called the Queen's Gate, is considerably above the level of the present ground; and probably was passable only by means of a draw-bridge, over the moat, or foss. It was defended by two portcullises. The staircase to the eagle tower is the only one remaining complete, and from the summit is an extensive view of the surrounding country and the isle of Anglesea. "Edward the second," says Mr. Pennant, "was born in a little *dark* room in this tower, not twelve feet long, nor eight in breadth: so little did, on those days, a royal consort consult either pomp or conveniency."* On a view of this little *dark* room, which, from its having the accommodation of a fire-place, appears to have been a dressing closet, the smallness will strike the beholder at once, with the improbability of its having been prepared for the royal accouchment. The adjoining central spacious chamber on the same floor, was most probably, the one destined, by
the

* Tour in Wales, Vol. II. p. 406.

the haughty monarch, for the momentous occasion; an apartment suitable to the state of an English queen, and the heir apparent of a new principality. It is, however, matter of conjecture, and not worthy of discussion; for as *Mr. Wyndham*, justly remarks, "Surely the birth of such a degenerate, and dastardly tyrant reflects little honour on the castle of Caernarvon."† The circumstances, which gave rise to the event, are far more interesting, both as respects their singular origin, and important consequences. Edward had, by what are termed, the statutes of Rhyddlan, annexed the principality to the kingdom of England, and in a great degree incorporated it, as to the administration of civil justice, with that country. But all this did not reconcile the Welsh with their new master, nor induce them quietly to submit to what, they justly considered, an usurped domination. Boldly and flatly they refused to acknowledge Edward as their sovereign, unless he would comply with their imperious requests, which were, that he should agree to reign, and condescend to reside, in Wales. This being a condition impossible to be complied with, a modification of the requisitions was granted on the part of the Welsh. After detailing the cruel oppressions, unjust exactions, and intolerable insolencies of the English officers, they stated, in a strong remonstrative memorial, that never would they acknowledge or yield obedience to any prince, but of their own nation, and language; and who could shew an unblameable life, and conversation. "King Edward," says the Welsh historian, "perceiving the people, to be resolute, and inflexible, and absolutely bent against any other prince, than one of their own country, happily thought of this politic, though dangerous expedient. *Queen Eleanor* was now quick with child, and ready to be delivered; and though the season was very severe, it being the depth of winter, the king sent for her from England, and removed her to Caernarvon castle, the place designed for her to lye in. When the time of her delivery was come, king Edward called to him all the ba-

† A Gentleman's Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales, p, 140.

rons and chief persons throughout all Wales, to Rhuthlan, there to consult about the public good, and safety of their country. And being informed, that his queen was delivered of a son, he told the Welch nobility, that whereas, they had oftentimes intreated him to appoint them a prince, he having at this time occasion to depart out of the country, would comply with their request, upon condition, they would allow of, and obey him, whom he should name. The Welch readily agreed, with the motion, only with the same reserve, that he should appoint them a prince of their own nation. King Edward assured them he would name such an one as was born in Wales, could speak no English; and whose life and conversation nobody could stain: upon the Welsh agreeing to own, and obey, he named *his own son Edward*; but little before born in CAERNARVON CASTLE*.” The conqueror, by this bold manœuvre, having succeeded in obtaining, what might be deemed the unqualified submission of the country, began without any regard to justice, or delicacy, to reward his English followers, with the property of the Welsh; and numerous towns, and manors were profusely bestowed on his coadjutative lords. It was not however, till a considerable time after this event, that the English monarch judged it adviseable, to invest his son with the delegated sovereignty. For though prince Edward, was born in 1284, it was not till he had arrived to his sixteenth year, that he received the reluctant fealty of his deluded subjects. “In the twenty-ninth year of that monarch’s reign, the prince of Wales came down to Chester, and received homage of all the freeholders in Wales. On this occasion, he was invested, as a mark of imperial dignity, with a chaplet of gold round his head, a golden ring on his finger, and a silver sceptre in his hand,† It is a curious circumstance, that though the country

* Wynne’s History of Wales, p. 300.

† Sir John Doddridge speaking of Edward the black prince, being created prince of Wales, observes that his father, “invested him in the said principality with these ensigns of honour, and as in the charter is contained, *Per sertum*

try was transferred by the Welsh, in consequence of birth, that neither the title, nor estate is descendible by birth-right to the heir apparent of the British throne. Edward the first summoned his son to Parliament, by the style and title of *Prince of Wales*, and *Earl of Chester*; yet it does not appear, that either of these honours is absolutely *hereditary*. Edward, subsequent to that investiture, summoned the same son, by the honourable designation of *Earl of Chester* and *Flint*. And when Edward the Third conferred the principality upon his son, the *Black Prince*, he decreed, that in future, the eldest son of the kings of England, should succeed to the dignity of *Duke of Cornwall*; and, at the same time, several possessions were annexed to the duchy. Since which time the title of *Dux Cornubiæ*, is legally attached to *primogeniture*. But long subsequent to that period, the honour of Wales does not appear to have been necessarily connected with *birth*, for the eldest sons of the English monarch were created by letters patent; and though by courtesy, the first born of the royal family is styled *prince*, or *princess* of Wales, yet it does not seem, this title is dependent on nativity.* However, it is not legally clear, since the time of Henry the seventh, that any public investiture, by patent or otherwise, has taken place, respecting the honorial distinction; but the eldest son seems to have succeeded, both to the dignity and concomitant property, as a matter of course.

The conqueror of Wales seemed to indulge a peculiar pride in paying attention to his adopted town, and bestowing favours on the place, which had administered to his political consequence. Caernarvon was distinguished by the *first* royal charter granted to Wales, by which it was constituted a free borough, to be governed by a mayor, who, for the time being, was to be governor of the castle, one alderman, two bailiffs, a town clerk, and two serjeants at mace. A member was summoned

sertum in capite, and annulum in digito aureum, ac virgam argenteum juxta morem." " Historical account, &c." p. 6.

* Seldon's Titles of Honour, p. 178.

moned to parliament, to represent its burgesses, in conjunction with those of Nevin, Criccieth, Conway, and Pwllheli: and the elective franchise is vested in every inhabitant, resident or non-resident, who has once been admitted to the freedom of the place. The townsmen were allowed to have a prison for petty offences, or misdemeanors, not cognizable by the sheriff of the county. They were, also, allowed a mercantile guild, with this privilege attached, that if any one's villein, or bondsman, dwelt within the precincts of the town, possessing lands, or paying scot and lot for a year and a day, he was no longer claimable by his lord; but enjoyed all the immunities of emancipation. The burgesses were also exempt, in every part of the kingdom, from tallage, lastage, passage, murage, pontage, and all other impositions, of whatever kind. No Jews were permitted to reside among them, and they could not be convicted of any crime committed between the rivers *Conwy* and *Dovey*, but under a verdict, returned by a jury of their *own* townsmen. Caernarvon may justly be considered the boast of North Wales; whether the delightfulness of the site, the regularity of the plan, the goodness of the buildings, or its other concomitant advantages be taken into consideration. The situation partly on the Menai, and partly on the estuary of the Seiont, where that river receives the tide from the former. The streets of the town, though narrow, are regularly built, and cross each other at right angles, and the whole were surrounded by a massy wall, of great height and thickness, flanked and defended at short intervals by numerous semicircular bastion towers. A walk ranged intirely round the inside of the embattled parapet, and two gates formed the entrance into the town, the east facing the mountains, and the west opening to the Menai. A wide and most accomodating terrace, extending from the quay to the north end of the town walls, forms a most charming walk, the fashionable promenade, in fine weather, for all descriptions of people; who, while they inhale the salutiferous breeze, may be pleasingly amused by the moving varieties of the port.

Caernarvon,

Caernarvon, as to public buildings, after viewing its noble castle, presents little worthy of admiration. *The Church* which, ecclesiastically speaking, is a chapel annexed to the mother church of Llanbebbic, exhibits no display of architectural beauty. The building was ever too small for the population of the place, and appears to have originally been intended only, for the use of the garrison. The devotional inconvenience experienced from this, has at length, however, roused the long dormant spirit of the diocese: and several meetings have been called, and sums subscribed, for enlarging the present structure, or erecting a new one, upon a more capacious plan.

The *County Hall*, in which the great sessions are held, a low mean-looking building, though neat, and sufficiently commodious within, stands nearly opposite the grand entrance to the castle.

The *County Prison* also, situated near the former, in Newgate-street, is a neat small edifice, erected about eighteen years ago, upon the plan, though of inferior dimensions to the one at Ruthin, in the county of Denbigh: and assumes more the appearance, of what it almost virtually is, an almshouse, than a gaol.

The apartments over the eastern gateway, anciently occupied by the escheator of North Wales, and subsequently as the custom-house, was converted into a *town hall* for the transacting municipal business, according to an inscribed label in front, by the munificence of Sir William Wynne, and his nephew, Thomas Wynne, Esq. in the year 1767.

A new *Market-house* has been lately erected, with excellent shambles for the exhibition of meat, with stalls for other articles, over and under which are ware-rooms for the housing of grain, and various commodities left unsold.

The hot and cold *Sea-water Baths*, built by the earl of Uxbridge, and the elegant hotel just without the town, erected under the patriotic direction of the same nobleman, add considerably to the accommodations of Caernarvon. These, together with the delightful situation of the place, and the moderate

derate price of provisions, the market being exceedingly well supplied, form strong inducements for many genteel families to take up their residence in the town, and its vicinity. A large ancient mansion, called *Plas Mawr*, from its unique appearance, often attracts the attention of travellers. Two dates conspicuously placed in front, inform the observer, that the edifice was constructed, or altered, during the year 1691. Another, in Black-boy street, is dated 1613. To those fond of making comparative views, respecting domestic architecture, these afford a fair specimen of the awkward style of building of the age, which was neither what has been denominated Gothic, nor classical; but an heterogeneous and tasteless commixture of both. The town contains many good houses, and the suburbs extend far beyond the mural boundary. Within a few years several improvements have been made, both in re-edifications, and also in erecting new buildings. What was called the *Maes*, near the castle, and long a nuisance to the place, now forms the site of a handsome row of buildings, terminated by an excellent inn and tavern.

Caernarvon is destitute of manufactures; but by means of the maritime situation, it is enabled to carry on a considerable coast-trade with London, Bristol, Liverpool, and Ireland; and some little communication with foreign connections, has been recently attempted by a few spirited individuals.

The *port*, though affording a sufficient quantity of sea-room, and excellent anchorage in from ten to twelve fathom, yet the *Aber sand bank*, forming a dangerous bar, at the constricted entrance, must ever constitute a preventive obstacle to its becoming an harbour, for ships of a great draught of water. Camden supposed, that this harbour was the *Sistuntiorum, vel Setantiorum Portus*, described in Ptolomy's coasting account of Britain. But this, among other statements, only shews how little that great topographer was acquainted with the principality; and what inattention he must have evinced to the distances, contained in the Itineraries. In going through the Menai straits, the Roman geographer passes the Conway, at
the

the mouth of which river, called by him *Toisobius*, the itineraries both of Antonine and Richard place the station of *Conovium*. “Here,” says the investigating Whitaker, “let us follow him gradually. From the Conway, in forty miles to the north, we proceed eighty to the east, to the æstuary *Seteia*. This is the opening of the *Dee*, as that could not be missed by a person ranging upon the coast, and, if not missed, would come next in succession. And Ptolomy’s distance of forty miles, right north and south, from the *Toisobius* to the *Deva*, corresponds with great exactness, to the more indirect distance on the road, at which the itineraries concur to set the town of *Deva* from *Conovium*; Richard’s fixing this at fifty miles from that, and Antonine’s at fifty one. Both arguments together form an irrefragable proof, that the *Seteia* of the geography cannot be any other æstuary than the *Deva* of the itineraries, and the present *Dee*. And this is the more particularly insisted upon, as it is of importance in itself, and has been mistaken, even by our collector from the ancients.”*

The import trade comprises wines, coals, porter, groceries, &c. &c., and the export consists chiefly of slates of various descriptions, brought down to the quay from the extensive quarries in the vicinity of Llanberis and Llanllyfni. *The Quay*, ranging round a side of the castle is of considerable extent; but a plan for its improvement has gradually been put in execution, by filling up a large marsh on the right bank of the *Seiont*, and thus confining the tide within the river bounds, deepening the channel, and enabling vessels to moor on a much more extended line. This has been partially effected by all vessels inwards, in ballast, being bound to discharge it on the spot, destined for the future quay. But an act, obtained about two years since, for the purpose of ameliorating the port, embraces a much more capacious and judicious plan, that of taking out a *pier*, and extending the quays in a north-easterly direction; so that vessels of considerable burthen, may be able to ride
afloat.

* History of Manchester, Vol. I. p. 174.

*a*float. To accomplish this desirable object, the corporation was impowered to raise a sum of money, in addition to the customary harbour-dues, by a port tax, of one shilling and sixpence on every hundred weight of tea, three pence per chaldron on coals, and a proportionable per centage on all other articles, entered inwards; with the proviso, that the quantum of such sum levied, should not exceed one penny in the pound. The expences of procuring the act having been liquidated, and the harbour and additional dues having amounted last year to about seven hundred and forty pounds; the accumulation will soon enable the commissioners to realize the intentions of the statute.

The annexed lists will shew the state of trade, the number of vessels that have cleared out, and entered inwards, from the port of Caernarvon, for ten years inclusive.

CLEARED OUT.				ENTERED INWARD.			
Years.	Foreign.	Coasters.	Total.	Years.	Foreign.	Coasters.	Total.
1790	105	180	285	1790	15	217	232
1	116	162	278	1	15	232	247
2	105	181	286	2	17	243	262
3	110	168	278	3	9	234	243
4	96	282	378	4	14	218	232
5	96	301	397	5	17	234	251
6	129	228	357	6	23	229	252
7	74	137	211	7	29	198	227
8	64	145	209	8	11	190	201
9	108	130	238	9	18	201	219
	1003	1914	2917		168	2198	2366

The number of vessels with their tonnage, within the last three years, was as follows:

	1807	1808	1809
From 16 to 50 tons - - - -	535	486	568
Do. 50 to 100 do. - - - -	261	272	251
Do. 100 to 150 do. - - - -	27	38	27
Do. 150 to 200 do. - - - -	6	--	1
Do. 200 to 250 do. - - - -	--	--	1
TOTAL . .	829	796	848

The

The number of vessels, with their tonnage and number of men, belonging to the port, were as follows, in the several successive years.

1800.			1803.			1805.		
Vessels.	Tons.	Men.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
40	2053	131	55	3435	216	68	3866	248
1807.			1808.			1809.		
Vessels.	Tons.	Men.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.	Vessels.	Tons.	Men.
62	3444	224	61	3385	221	50	2713	179*

Though this town is by far of the greatest importance in North Wales, its port is only a creek, dependent on the haven of Beaumaris; to the comptroller of which the collecting officer is amenable. The custom-house, a small insignificant looking building, is situated without the town walls, on the extra-mural platform already described. There is a well-supplied weekly market on Saturdays, and seven annual fairs. By the returns made to Parliament, the number of houses amounted to 609, and the inhabitants to 3626, viz., males 1588, and females 2038.

The church of LLANBEBLIC, which parish includes Caernarvon, about half a mile from the town, is supposed to have obtained the derivation of the name from *Publicius*,* the son of Helena; and here divine service is performed once every Sunday in *Welsh*, as it is in *English* at Caernarvon.

Rowland states, † that he retired from the world, and took a religious habit, in consequence of which Conan Meriadog, who had been advanced by his relation, the emperor Constantine,

* *Peblic*, the son of Maxen Wledig, or Maximus the Tyrant, seventy-ninth king of Britain. and his wife Elen, or Helen, daughter of Eudav, was a reputed saint, who lived about the commencement of the fifth century.—Owen's Camb. Biog.

Mona Antiqua, p. 165.

Constantine, to the throne of Armorica, in Gaul, became heir to his uncle Eudav, or Eudda, and succeeded him as duke of Cornwall. This advowson with the annexed chapelry, Richard the second granted, on account of their extreme poverty, to the nuns of St. Mary's in Chester. In the church is an altar tomb, erected to the memory of *William*, a son of *Sir William Gryffyd* of *Penrhyn*, who died in 1587, and Margaret his wife, daughter of John Wynn ap Meredydd. Two recumbent figures on a mat, carved in white marble, exhibit a fine specimen of the sculptorial art. He is represented clad in armour, and she in the costume of the times, a loose robe with a sash about the waist, ruffles at the wrists, and a quilted ruff encircling the neck. Round the sarcophagus, are figures of their children in a supplicating posture. From Caernarvon, along the western part of the bay, the shore is flat, consisting chiefly of sandy or gravelly beach. The mountains receding from the sea, leave a considerable space of champagne country, through which a very good road has been formed, without the aid of turn-pike toll. But the antiquary will be diverted from this, by part of a *Roman* road appearing on his right, and extending from Segontium, to the strong post of *Dinas Dinlle*. This comprises the top of a large mount, apparently artificially formed, on the verge of an extensive marsh near the shore, the form was circular, and the diameter four hundred feet. On the summit is a large area, surrounded by a vast rampart of earth; within this space, the remains of buildings, of an oblong form, are discoverable, constructed with loose stones, and a tumulus composed of the same materials. One part is defended by a deep foss, with two lofty ramparts; the other part faces the shore, where the depredatory power of the waves has worn the sea front into an abrupt cliff; opposite to which was the only entrance. This fortress, Mr. Pennant attributes to the Romans, from the circumstances of coins, belonging to the empire, among which was one of *Alectus*, having been found here; and the place being calculated to afford facility in landing necessary supplies for the garrison of Segontium, when from ad-

verse winds the entrance into the port, became difficult or dangerous. But a stronger proof originates in that almost infallible clue to the development of ancient history, the *ancient appellation* of places. On a stream called *y Eforiad*, that runs not far distant from the fort, are two fords, still retaining the united Roman and British names of *Rhyd pedestre*, and *Rhyd equestre*, the passage for the infantry, and the passage for the cavalry. "To this great centre of observation and action," says the late learned vicar of Llanwnda, "correspond several other forts, that lie diagonally across the country, some toward the north, and others toward the south; which like the wings of an army, were of infinite service in time of danger, for its safety and protection. The most considerable on the east, are *Dinorddwig*, in the parish of Llanddiniolen, and *Yr hen Gastel*, and *Dinas Gorfau*, both in the parish of Llanwnda; and about, three miles distant towards the south, one of the most rocky, is *Craig y Dinas*, on the river Llyfni, about a mile and a half distant. *Dinorddwig*, or as it is now called, *Pendinas*, in the parish of Llanddiniolen, is still entire, and strengthened with a double ditch and strong rampart. The excellence of this fort is its strength and compactness, standing, as it were, on tiptoe above all the rest. *Yr hen Gastel*, the old castle, near the brook *Carrog*, is a small entrenchment with a single rampart, about fifty paces in length. *Dinas Gorfau*, near *Pont Newydd*, the new bridge, has merely the name remaining. But *Craig y Dinas*, the rocky fort, is a circular encampment, about a hundred paces in diameter, very steep towards the river, that passes it on the south, as it is also on every other side, except the west. The ramparts, with a treble ditch, are of loose stones, exceedingly strong, and not to be taken out, even at this day, without great force. The entrance is towards the north side, very narrow, and forty paces in length. This fort is about a mile south-west of the great road, that leads from *Caernarvon* to *Pwllheli*, a quarter of a mile from *Lleiar*, the ancient family seat of the *Twisletons*. Farther on, towards the extremity of the diagonal line, at the foot of *Llanhaiarn* moun-

tain, and not far from the place, where that parish joins, upon Llan Gybi, there is a small fort on the top of a high rock called Caer. This was a fort of observation, to guard, not only the passes of the mountains, but to overlook Llyn, the ancient division of Caernarvonshire, called Evionedd, and St. George's Channel. There are other smaller forts interspersed about the country, (connected, no doubt, in some shape or other, with Dinas Dinlle.) These were either the residences of generals, as Gas-lys, in the parish of Llanwnda, or places of observation for some peculiar military uses, as Dinas y Prif, in the parish of Llanwnda, where there is one deep ditch, and a western entrance, looking towards the principal fort, Dinas Dinlle. The disposition and economy of these headquarters, favour of the wisdom and sagacity that seem to run through the whole; being situated, (if the expression may be used) at proper intervals in the base of a triangle, which the two diagonal lines form, by meeting with the base, in a point at Dinas Dinlle.*

That intelligent traveller and able botanist, Mr. Thomas Johnson † speaks thus of Dinas Dinlle, "Stationem hic in ipso littore Romani milites habuerant, cujus adhuc satis clara vestigia manent." Possibly there may be another of the same kind; for in the old maps both of Saxton and Speed, the name *Gaer Ierienrode*, occurs a little lower down at the mouth of the Llyfni; and by the addition of the word Caer, it must have been a fortified place.

GLYNLLIFON PARK, situated near a rivulet, bearing the name of Llifon, was built by Sir John Wynne, father of the late and grandfather of the present lord Newborough. This spot was the site of a residence of *Cilmin Froed-du*, or Cilmin with a black foot, ancestor of one among the fifteen tribes of North Wales;

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and

* Letter of the late Rev. R. Farrington, vicar of Llanwnda, near *Dinas Dinlle*.

† An ingenious apothecary, the editor of Gerard's Herbal; who travelled through North Wales in 1659, to collect plants, and published his Tour in 1641, a small volume, under the title of *Mercurius Botanicus*. He was slain in the defence of Basingstoke house in 1644.

and nephew to Merfyn Frych, who was slain in the year 841 and from whom are descended the family of the Glynnnes, that derive their cognomen from the place. Glynllifon came into possession of Sir John, by the marriage of his father, Thomas Wynne, Esq. of Boduan, afterwards created a baronet, with Frances, second daughter of John Glynne, Esq. of Glynllifon. The house is a moderate sized brick mansion, having a colonaded stone vestibule, for its principal entrance, and the park is spacious, though exhibiting little variety in its natural capacity, or artificial decoration. A small fort, with a summer pavilion at the further side, used to amuse the military taste of the late noble proprietor; and where many were accustomed to participate of his lordship's hospitality.

CLYNNOG, which received the additional epithet of *vawr*, great, was celebrated in early times, as the residence of St. *Beuno*, a saint, held in as much popular estimation, as his sister *Wenefrede*, of devotional memory. He was born of noble parents, in the district, now called Flintshire, but assuming a monastic habit, retired to this place, where it is said, in the year 616, he built a church, and monastery. The village, with the houses and church, half veiled by a grove of trees, together with the mountains in the back ground and the sea in front, form a highly picturesque scene. A few foundations of the walls are at this time the only remains of this once distinguished abbey. Leland thus describes the establishment “ *Clunnok vawr* a monasteri, sumtime of white monkes suppressed many yeres ago.* But the original of this monasteri was by *St. Benow* of whom mention is made in S. Wenefrides life. The Whit were of a newer fundation. Guithin, uncle to one of the princes of North Wales was the first giver of Clunnok village and place to Ben-

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now.

* Leland dedicates his work, under the title of “ A Laborious journey and Serche for Englandes Antiquities, to King Henry the Eighth, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, and presented to that monarch, as a new year's gift. Whence it is probable, that the alienation of this religious house, was sometime prior to the general dissolution: and this might probably be included among the number of those, granted to Cardinal Wolsey, for the erection of his new Colleges of Ipswich, in Suffolk, and Christchurch in Oxford.

now. The chirch that is now ther with cross isles is almost as bigge as S. Davides, but it is of a new worke. The old chirch wher S. Bennow liyth is hard by the new.*” The great patron, on this occasion, was *Cadfan*, king of North Wales, whose son *Cadwallan* performed, though reluctantly, a promise, previously made by his father, and granted to the saint the desired portion of land; who in return, presented him with a golden sceptre, valued at the price of *sixty cows*. The estate appears to have been claimed in the right of an infant, which was esteemed valid. The king having refused, either to relinquish the land in question, or give any other in lieu of it, suffered St. Beuno’s malediction, in those days the most serious punishment, that could be inflicted on royalty. The latter, however, by the persuasion of Gwrddeint, a relative of the king, was induced to recall his anathema, and accept of the town and demesne of Clynnog; which was grauted for ever to God and St. Beuno, for the good of Gwrddeint’s soul and that of the wicked Cadwallan. What the order of monks was in the first instance, does not appear; but long subsequent to the time of St. Beuno, the institution consisted of Carmelites or white friars. At the time of the Lincoln taxation, made A. D. 1291, according to Tanner, the church was collegiate, having five portionists, or prebendaries, and probably continued so till its suppression. The amount of its revenues is not recorded, but from the extensive grants, bestowed by numerous princes, and nobles, they must have been immense. The rectory is a sinecure, annexed to the headship of Jesus College, Oxford. The conventual *church*, the most magnificent ecclesiastical structure in North Wales, is built in the pointed style, cruciform in its shape, and comprises a chancel, nave, ailes, and transept, with a handsome square tower. The length from east to west is about one hundred and thirty-eight feet, and from north to south seventy; and near the altar are three stalls, with pointed arches, supported by slender columns. These, which originally were more in number, formed the seats of the officiating priests. The remaining monuments

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† Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 14.

are few. An altar-tomb, on which are two recumbent figures, and round in relievo seven smaller ones, was erected to the memory of *William Glynné de Lleiar*, his wife and their seven children. Another commemorates his son in law, and successor, in right of marriage, to the demesne of Lleiar, *George Twisleton, Esq.** who was of a Yorkshire family, and holding a Colonel's commission, was very active in the Parliamentary cause, and had the honour of defeating and taking prisoner, that brave commander and zealous loyalist, Sir John Owen. In the south-east corner of the church stands an old oaken chest, belted with iron, and fixed down to the floor, called *cyff Beuno*, or Beuno's chest. This, which is kept fast locked, has a small elongated aperture in the lid, for the purpose of receiving the offerings, made by pilgrims, and other devotees, to this favourite saint; who used to present pieces of money with other gifts, and among the rest, all such calves and lambs, which happened to be found with what is termed *nod Beuno*, or St. Beuno's token, a certain natural mark, a slit in the ear. These after the era of superstition had passed by, as it respected the government of the established church, the wardens applied the little money, arising from casual offerings, and the sale of the sacred beasts, to the relief of the poor, or in aid of ecclesiastical repairs † These alms and oblations, however, have ceased, and it is a subject of lamentation, that no fund now remains to preserve this truly venerable pile from falling to decay. Adjoining the church is a small building called *Eglwys Beuno*, supposed to have been part of the original church; but the building, in the

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pointed

* For a discription of this monument, see an account in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for the month of November 1790.

† From an old Welsh manuscript, found in the alms chest, a few years since, it appears the oblations were made, according to a prescribed form, viz, " Here I offer to God four pence for my private sins, on which account the Almighty is now punishing me ; to be given for the same service, that the blessed saints used to offer, in the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen."

pointed style, is evidently of a subsequent date. The passage leading from the grand structure to this, is a narrow vault covered with large flat stones, apparently of much greater antiquity than either the church or chapel, and probably the only remaining part of the original building. The patron saint was buried in his own chapel, and an altar-tomb lately removed, is said to have been the place of his interment, on which a mutilated stone figure, rudely carved, is considered the effigy of St. Beuno. Such was the miracle-working power of this tomb, that persons affected with any disorder, after making their offering to the chest, supplicating the saint, and prostrating themselves on the flat table stone, believed they would receive immediate relief. Votaries were extremely numerous, and even of late years it was customary to cover it with rushes, and leave on it, during the night, impotent children, after previously giving them a triple ablution in the neighbouring *Ffynnon vair*.* About half a mile distant is a treat to the British antiquary, an uncommon large *cromlech*, in a field near the sea, belonging to a tenement, called Bachwen. The inclination of the table-stone dips towards the west, and contains on its surface several shallow holes, some larger than others, supposed to have been made for the purposes of augury, and at the distance of about thirty yards, stands erect a single stone pillar, doubtless connected with the Druidical rites performed on that altar. The country, after passing Clynneg, becomes both barren, desolate, and uninteresting. The white-washed church of Llanhaiarn, from its elevated site, forms an useful landmark to the distant mariner, and the Rhifel, or Eifl rocks, with their forked summits, half obscured by passing clouds, assume a grand and contrasting aspect in the back grounds of the picture. On this mountainous ridge, is what Mr. Pennant describes, as “the most and magnificent, as well as the most artfully constructed British post he ever beheld.” This is *Tre'r Caeri*, or the town of fortresses. The only accessible side

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* This holy well dedicated to St. Beuno, is inclosed in a square wall, on the road side, about a quarter of a mile from the village.

was defended by three walls; the first imperfect, the second nearly intire, and the third ranges unequally round the highest verge of the hill. They appear to have been regularly faced, are very lofty, and exhibit, from below, a grand and extensive front. The area is of an irregular shape, and about the centre is a quadrangular space, fenced with stone, and surrounded with two rows of cells: numbers of a like description are scattered about the surface. These, remains of habitations, are of various forms, circular, oblong, and square, some fifteen, and others thirty feet diameter, having long entrance passages, faced with stone. From many eminences in the vicinity, being similarly fortified, * it appears that this part of the country formed one of the retreats, to which the discomfited Britons resorted, to escape the fury of their Saxon invaders.

After ascending the *bwlch*, or hollow, that separates two sugar loaf points of the mountains, dividing the hundred of Llyn from Arfon, and across which extends an immense rampart of loose stones, the ruins of a wall, once forming the defences of this important pass; the descent is into the flat, called *Nant y Gwrtheyrn*, or Vortigern's Valley. To which that unfortunate monarch fled from the rage of his insulted and injured subjects, and where, according to the legendary history of the monks, who never allowed any offending them, to die a natural death, he met with the signal retaliating vengeance on his crimes; both the king and his castle having been here consumed by lightning. Fancy could not imagine a more secluded retreat. Embosomed in a lofty mountain, and bounded by the rocky declivities, it has only one opening, and that towards the sea. A small verdant mount, is said to have been the site of his residence; and a *carn*, or tumulus, covered with turf, in which some years since, a stone coffin, containing the bones of a tall man, were discovered; the place of his interment. This was in the traditionary language of the neighbourhood, denominated *Bedd Gwrtheyrn*, or the tomb of Vortigern.

2 B 4

NEFYN

* Among this number are *Carn Madryn*, *Boduan Moel*, *Ben Turch*, *Castell Gwgan*, *Moel Garn Gwch*, and *Pen y Gaer*.

NEFYN,

Or Nevin, is a small town in the hundred of Dinlaen, containing 242 houses, and 1028 inhabitants, and has a weekly market on Saturdays, but at present is a very insignificant place. However, Edward; the conqueror, thought it expedient, from some reasons or other, to fix upon this, as the station to display his ambition; and celebrate his seizin of Wales, on his accomplishing the subjugation of a country, long the opprobrium of his politics. He first held a triumphal revel upon the proudest elevation, Snowdon, and then adjourned, to conclude the ebullitions of joy for victory, by solemn rites on the plains of Nefyn. The place was bestowed by the Black Prince in the twelfth year of his investiture, on *Nigel de Lohareyn*, made a free borough, allowed a mercatory guild; and had every privilege annexed to free boroughs, and participated in all the immunities granted to the joint royal boroughs of Aberffraw, and Newborough, in the county of Anglesea. He at the same time allowed the inhabitants to have two annual fairs; and what would be considered in the present age, an indecorous grant, a *market on a Sunday*. In the year 1284, the long disappointed Edward, after ascending the heights of Snowdon, and taking an extensive view of his hard earned conquests, determined to accommodate his subjects on the more champagne and pleasurable parts of the country, with a view to conciliate their affections. After the manner of the fabulous, or the real Arthur, he instituted a divertisement, comprising tilts, tournaments, and all the paraphernalia of the *Round Table*.

“ Where throngs of knights and barons bold
 In weeds of peace high triumphs hold,
 With store of ladies, whose bright eyes
 Reign influence, and judge the prize,
 Of wit, or arms, while both intend
 To win her grace whom all commend.”

The concourse on this occasion was prodigious; the chief nobility

bility of England, and many foreigners of distinction were present at this proud, but disgraceful festival. The custom of the *round table* is supposed to have originated from the jealous spirit of the British, in the early period of our history; but it appears far anterior to the days of Arthur. The Gauls, according to the accounts of Cæsar, and Tacitus, had their circular modes of feasting, and probably with the same view of preventing those bickerings, likely to arise at festive boards; where the guests, from their situations, rank in life, or the title of their host, might feel disposed to entertain an idea of superiority. “A form,” says the learned Selden, “much commended by a late writer for the like distance of all from the *salt*, being first and last of the table furniture.”* This mode of preventing jealousies from precedence, is generally attributed to king Arthur: but the incredible reports narrated of that prince, have even brought his honoured deeds into disrepute, and rendered his very existence a dubious subject. It is stated the first celebration of this knightly order,† was at Caerleon, in Monmouthshire; others fix Winchester as the place, where a comparatively modern piece of furniture is exhibited, as the original round table;‡ and to the present hour, Camelot, or Camel, in the county of Somerset, still prefers its claim to that distinguished honour. It is evident, that the custom was adopted by many successive kings, after the Norman conquest, both prior and subsequent to the time of Edward. The chivalrous festivities during the reigns of Stephen, Henry the third, Edward the third, and the celebrated one by Mortimer, in the time of this prince, at
Kenilworth,

* Titles of Honor, p. 366.

† “Its like enough some such thing as Arthur’s order of this kind might be.—But many particulars of it, as the names of the knights, the certain number, their coat armor, and such more, whereof too largely are testimonies, such as they be, I beleieve as much, as him that says Sir Lancelo du Lac fleas horses in hell, and that all these Arthurian knights are poor watermen upon Styx, Acheron, and other rivers there, to ferrie spirits, and divels up and down; and that their fare is a fillip on the nose, and at night a piece of mouldy bread.” Selden’s Titles of Honor, p. 365.

‡ See The Beauties, Vol. VI. 91-

Kenilworth, are famous in history*. Mr. Penwiant supposes these fetes were held in those circular *areæ*, which are frequently met with in several parts of the island, “surrounded with a high mound, a ditch in the inside, and two entrances, one opposite the other, for the knights to enter at, and make their onset.” One bearing the name, he saw at Penrith, in Cumberland, and another on Thornborough Heath, in Yorkshire. Stow also describes one in the parish of Llansannan, in the county of Denbigh, as a circular plain, cut out of the main rock, on the side of a stony hill, with some twenty-four seats, unequal, which is, by the country people, called Arthur’s round table.

About a mile from Nefyn, on the shore, is *Porth yn Llyn*, situated near a fine sandy bay, and defended from the strong westerly winds by a narrow head-land, with its promontory jutting far out into the sea. This was probably a port, frequented by the Romans, as vestiges of strong entrenchments, apparently the work of that people, are still visible in the vicinity. Some time ago a scheme was formed of improving this unfrequented portion of the country, by bringing part of the great road from London to Ireland, through it, by a new line, to have proceeded from Merionethshire across the Traeth mawr, and constituting this port the rendezvous for the packet vessels, instead of Holyhead. For this purpose an act was passed in the year 1806, to erect a pier, and other necessary works, and incorporating a company for raising money, collecting rates, &c.; but on a second application, being subsequently made to Parliament, for further aid, for the purpose of carrying the plan into effect, the pecuniary boon, through counter influence, was peremptorily refused; and the grand work consequently left unperformed.

BRYNODOL, the seat of *John Griffith, Esq.* is a good mansion, and

* For a more detailed account of these ancient amusements consult the works of Matthew Paris and Thomas de Walsingham. Dugdale in his history of Warwickshire observes, that at the one held in Kenilworth, the knights performed martial exercises, and the ladies danced in *silken mantles*.

and situated on an eminence, commands a most extensive view of a flat woodless tract of country, bounded on one side by a noble mass of mountains of which *Boduan* and *Carn Madryn* rise nobly in the fore ground; and beyond range in majestic grandeur, the whole Snowdonian chain.

The churches in this part of the county are more numerous, than any other, and, from various antient inscriptions, appear to have been founded soon after the introduction of Christianity. On a column in that of Llangynodol, is the following.

“ J. GWEN HOEDL JACIT HIC 750.”

A holy lady, the reputed patroness of the church. On another,

HÆC ÆDES ÆDIFICATA EST, A.D. M.

Near CEFN AMWLCH, an old seat belonging to the *Hon. Mrs. Finch*, is a large *cromlech*, called by the common people *cocton Arthur*; and in the parish of LLANJESTIN, various Roman urns have been discovered, at different times. The coast in this part of Caernarvonshire consists of a rocky boundary, which is divided by several small creeks, affording safe retreats from storms, for boats and small craft, during the fishing season. Among these are *Porth Towyn*, *Porth Colman*, *Porth Gwylan*, *Porth Ysgadan*, and ABERDARON; the latter of which is, a village, principally inhabited by fishermen. The church, which Leland has confounded with another parish, some miles distant, was formerly much resorted to by pilgrims, and other devotees, that came to pay their devours to the saints of Bardsey; and had the high privilege of sanctuary bestowed upon it. The ailes are separated from the nave by handsome lofty columns, and the whole exhibits an appearance, superior to the place. Near this spot is a small circular encampment, about fifty yards in diameter, defended by a double foss and vallum. This creek is the general place of taking boat, to visit the small and now insignificant, yet once important and distinguished ISLAND OF BARDSEY. The passage is always difficult, and oftentimes dangerous, lying through the race of Bardsey, a rapid current, that sets in between the island, and the vast promontory, called
Braich

Braich y Pwll; the ancient *Canganum promontorium* of the Roman geographer. From this natural circumstance, the island received the British appellation of *Ynis Enlli*. The Saxons afterwards called it Bardseye, probably from its having formed a refuge to the bards, who preferred a recluse asylum, to the company of intrusive foreigners. After the massacre of the monks at Bangor Iscoed, this became a place to which many of the surviving monks doubtless fled for safety. Denominated thence *Iusula sanctorum*, it is asserted by the poets, to have been the cemetery of twenty thousand of these holy men: but as Fuller humourously remarks, "it would be more facile to find graves in Bardsey for so many saints, than saints for so many graves."* It is extremely probable, however, that this was one of the seats of the *Colidei*, or *Culdees*, the first order of religious recluses in Britain, who had their cells or cloisters in the most secluded parts, for the purposes of undisturbed devotion. These became places for the religious instruction of their disciples, and in Ireland were denominated *celeu*; many of which retain the discriminating appellation, as *Cel-Manoc*, *Cel-cenney*, *Cel-Ala*, &c. These in Wales were designated by the name of *Llan*; a term equivalent to *cel* in the Erse. These western dervises, consulting more the love of solitude than the convenience of their congregations selected for the sites of their cells, which became their future churches, places, singular for their unaccommodating situations. Most had generally near them some spring, or well, denominated a *Ffynnon vair*; the waters of which, according to the estimation of the saint, for his communication with the Deity, were held in repute for their salutiferous effects. Some story of divine interference generally accompanied the original discovery of such

* *Worthies of Wales*, p. 29.

† These were called *Celedi*, from the two Erse terms *Ceile-Dei*, that is, espoused to God, or separated to his service. They were an order of lay monastic religious, governed by an abbot, or principal, elected by members of the body from among themselves.

such a fountain, that became the sigillum to the efficacy of its waters. A few of these ascetics were early joined, by several other ecclesiastical persons, that accompanied the celebrated victor against Pelagius, in the dispute arising out of the Arian heresy, Dubricius, archbishop of Caerleon in Gwent; who having resigned his metropolitan see to his nephew St. David, retired to Bardsey. He died in the year 612, and was here interred, though his body is said to have been removed to the cathedral of Llandaff. The precise period in which the *abbey* of Bardsey was founded, is uncertain*. According, however, to the narrated flight of Dubricius, it must have been in the early part of the sixth century, during the reign of Cadfan. And an old legend, yet, extent, written in Monkish latin, comments in the usual style of the writers in the dark ages, in the following curious, though ludicrous manner.

This assures us that the Almighty had entered into a particular covenant with Laudatus, in return for the piety of his monks. That he granted to all the religious of the monastery of Bardsey, the peculiar privilege of dying according to the seniority, the oldest always going off first. By this privilege it is stated, that every one knew very nearly the time of his own departure. The following is a translation of it: "at the foundation of the monastery of this island, the Lord God, who attendeth to the petition of the just, at the earnest request of holy Laudatus, the first abbot, entered into a covenant with that holy man, and miraculously confirmed his promise, unto him and his successors, the abbots and monks for ever, while they should continue to lead holy and religious lives, that they should die by succession, that is, that the oldest should go first,

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* Aneurin, the prince of British Bards, who was cotemporary with the metropolitan of South Wales, observes, that Dubricius made his retreat from the fury of the Saxons, immediately after the synod, held at Llanddewi bref, A. D. 522. At which religious conclave *Lleudad*, romanized into Laudatus, the first abbot, is said to have refused the summons for attendance. *Lleudad* was the son of Nydd Hoel ap Sessylt, of the tribe descended from Maxen Wledog.

like a shock of corn ripe for the sickle. Being thus warned of the approach of death, each of them, therefore, should watch, as not knowing at what exact hour the thief might come; and, being thus always prepared, each of them by turns, should lay aside his earthly form. God, who is ever faithful, kept this covenant, as he formerly did with the Israelites, inviolable, until the monks no longer led a religious life, but began to profane and defile God's sanctuary by their fornications and abominable crimes. Wherefore, after this, they were permitted to die like other men; sometimes the elder, sometimes the younger, and sometimes the middle-aged first: and being thus uncertain of the approach of death, they were compelled to submit to the general laws of mortality. Thus when they ceased to lead a holy and religious life, God's miraculous covenant also ceased: and do thou, therefore, O God, have mercy upon us."*

This peculiar privilege, granted as a meritorious reward to the pre-eminent virtues of the primeval monks, is humourously expressed in one of our old writers, and chronicleering collectors, thus,

“Ad Lline in North wallia
Est insula permodicæ,
Quæ Bardesia dicitur,
A monachis incolitur,
Ubi tam diu vivitur,
Quod senior præmoritur,
Ibi Merlinus conditur
Sylvestris, ut asseritur.”

It was an abbey dedicated to the virgin Mary, and further endowed by Roderic Moelwynog, in the eighth century. Edward the second, on complaint being made by petition, against the sheriff of Caernarvon, for illegal exactions, it was found on the inquisition, directed by the royal mandate, issued to the

* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 434.

† Lelandi Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 369.

the justiciary of Wales, Roger de Mortimer; that the said abbot of Bardsey held all and every of his lands within the county of Caernarvon, "*in puram et perpetuam eleemosynam*:" The king therefore, by the advice of his council, not forgetting, by his own special favour, did remit for ever, any sum, or sums, charged, or pretendedly due from the said monastery; and that on no account whatever, should any one in future, on his account, or that of his heirs, give the abbot or monks any molestation. In the time of Henry the eighth, *John Conway* appears to have been the last abbot, for in that reign Bardsey experienced a similar fate to other religious houses. According to Dugdale, the annual revenues at the dissolution, amounted to 46l. 1s. 4d. and Speed, 58l. 6s. 2d. In the year 1553 the sum of 11. 6s. 8d. only remained in charge, to the surviving religious of the place. The site of the monastery is merely discoverable by numerous graves lined with stone, and a large ancient building, said to have been the abbot's lodge, now occupied in tenements by several of the inhabitants. A singular ruined chapel, or oratory, not far distant, consists of a long vaulted room, with an insulated stone altar near the east end. Here, on Sundays, one of the natives, in bad weather, reads the liturgy of the established church; but all other parochial duties are performed at Aberdaron. Thus the island, which is said to have afforded an asylum to twenty thousand saints during life, and a secure interment after death, has its spiritual concerns committed to the care of a single rustic.

John Wynne ap Hugh, of the house of Bodville, sheriff for Caernarvonshire in the year 1551, and standard bearer at the battle of Norwich, in the reign of Edward the sixth, had for his services on that occasion, a manor called Court, and Bardsey conferred on him by royal grant. Mr. Pennant, however, on the authority of Tanner, * observes it was given by that monarch, to his uncle Sir Thomas Seymour, and on his demise

* † Tour in Wales, Vol. II. p. 381.

to John Earl of Warwick; and that the late Sir John Wynne purchased it from the Rev. Dr. Wilson of Newark. It is now the property of Lord Newborough.

The island, distant about a mile from the main land, rather exceeds two miles in length, by one in breadth, comprising about three hundred and seventy acres of land, of which nearly a third is a mountainous ridge, affording food for a few sheep and rabbits. To the south-east and south-west it is much exposed; but it is sheltered on the north and north-east, by the above elevation, which on its sea-front presents perpendicular and projecting rocky cliffs, in which the hazardous trade of egg-taking already described, is pursued during the resort of puffins, and other migratory birds, in the spring season. On the only accessible side, the south-east, a small well-sheltered harbour is capable of receiving a few vessels from thirty to forty tons burthen. The soil is chiefly argillaceous, and tolerably fertile, producing excellent barley and wheat: and in the bottom is a little quantity of good grass land. The manure is sea-weed or wrack. The rental was recently one hundred guineas per annum, let out in three bargains. The number of houses is eight, and the inhabitants amount to about seventy, who are exempt from all rents and taxes. No reptile is ever seen on this island, except the water lizard, a circumstance easily accounted for, from the want of sheltering woods. The small bay included between Porth Towyn and Ceiriag road, is vulgarly denominated by mariners *Hell's mouth*, from the danger it presents, and the dread with which it inspires navigators, during boisterous weather. From the height and position of the encompassing cliffs, let the wind blow from whatever point of the compass it may, it is observable to come into the bay; and from whatever quarter the tide flows, the upper current apparently sets inwards; so that to those unfortunate enough to be drawn into it, a lee shore is to be dreaded: and happy do they esteem themselves, if they can weather the eastern point, and get into St. Tudwal's road; sheltered by two small islands, which receive their appellation from that saint, and to whom a small chapel on one of them, was dedicated.

In the promontory called *Penrhyn Du* one of the points that form this bay, formerly was a considerable adventure for lead ore; and recent attempts to drain the mines from the obstructing water, proved abortive, from the quantity of coal requisite for the engines, and its exorbitant price.

PWLLHELI,

In the parish of LLANNOR, is a small market town and port, situated on the northern site of Cardigan Bay, which has three or four small streams flowing into its traeth. The entrance into the one, that forms the port, is, by a round shaped rock, denominated Careg yr Imbill, about a mile distant from the place, to which it is joined by a range of sand hills. By a charter, granted in the twelfth year after the Black Prince succeeded to the honour of Wales, this was constituted a free borough, at the request of Nigel de Lohareyn, for the eminent services in Gascony, particularly at the celebrated battle at Poitiers. The privileges included under this grant, were the same as those of the men of Rhosfair in Anglesea. The town of Nefyn, and four librates of land, were all comprised in the donation, for which Nigel was only to render an annual acknowledgement of a rose, in lieu of all rents and services. These several grants were subsequently confirmed by king Edward the Third, at a court holden at Sandwich. The town, though it has little to boast of, consisting of one long street, is the best in this part; and by its harbour being capable of admitting vessels of sixty tons burthen, carries on an extensive coasting trade; and forms the depot, or grand magazine for supplying the south western district of the county. This, is one of those ports, considered as to commercial dues, a creek, subject to the comptroller of the customs at Beaumaris. From a document furnished by Mr. George Chalmers, and published in the Cambrian Register for the year 1795, the number of ships and tonnage then exceeded even those, belonging to Caernarvon, viz. In 1792 the

latter had 61 ships carrying 2240 tons; the former 81, amounting to 2461 tons.

It has a well-attended market on Wednesdays, and by the returns made to government, contains 137 houses and 717 inhabitants. Along the coast from this place to Bardsey island, is a considerable fishing concern; in the season vast shoals of herrings frequent the bays and creeks, which are taken and partly salted on shore, and partly sold to the Irish; who send over small craft for the purpose. Numerous fish of the kind called *John Dorees* * are frequently taken here, and which from their uncouth and forbidding shape, the fishermen used to return to their native element: till an incidental circumstance brought the *bonne bouche* of that noted epicure and actor *Quin* into repute, as an object of luxury among the Welsh gentry. The *Smelt*† also, another curious fish, is taken near Pwllheli, and a small lobster differing from the common sort in size and place of residence, is frequently found burrowing in the sands on the shore.

CRICCIETH,

Though a market and borough town, contributory to Caernarvon, is but a small insignificant place, comprising a few mean buildings, without the regularity of streets. By the returns made to Parliament, the number of houses is 84, and the population 368. It is notwithstanding of high antiquity, and the remains of its ruined castle, worthy of the traveller's notice. This fortress stands on an eminence at the end of a long neck of land, jutting out into the sea. By this narrow isthmus was the entrance, which was defended by a double foss and vallum thrown across it. The admission is by a gateway between two round bastion towers, into an irregular court, beyond which is another

* *Zeus Faber* of Linnæus.

† *Atherina Hepsetus*, Do.

ther of smaller dimensions. The remaining towers are of a quadrangular form, one within the area, and two on the verge of the rock. The entrance towers are also square inside, and probably were originally so without. The whole never appears to have been a very large fortress, although of great importance from its position. This is supposed by some writers to have been erected by Edward the First; but that monarch probably did no more than cause it to be repaired, and the entrance towers cased, in a circular fashion, to give the whole a more imposing effect. Rowlands observes, that this was a British post.* And the architecture so much resembling that of another, evidently of a very early period, at Dolwyddelan, gives corroborative weight to the opinion. After the conquest, Edward appointed *Williaw de Leybourn* the governor, with an allowance of one hundred pounds per annum; out of which he was to maintain thirty stout men, ten were to be cross-bowmen, a chaplain, surgeon, a carpenter, and one mason.

The proud boast of his countrymen *Sir Howel y Fwyall*, a hero, descended from *Collwyn ap Tangno*, had the government bestowed upon him by the Black Prince, whom he had attended at the battle of Poitiers, where he is said to have performed prodigies of valour, and captured the French king. But that honour, is with more probability, ascribed to *Denis de Morebegne*, a knight of Artois.* Some more, equally improbable stories are related respecting Sir Howel, who was denominated *y Fwyall*, or the pole-axe, the figure of which he bore in his coat of arms.

“ The country lying within the space between this place in the hundred of Efonydd, abounded with gentry, that formed an *irritabile genus*, for which the principality has been so remarked by their English neighbours. This part of Caernarvon, in remote days, was possessed by *two clans*; one descended from *Owen Gwynedd*, prince of Wales, consisted of four houses, *Cesail*

2 C 2

Gyfarch,

* *Mona, Antiqua*, 149.

† *Johnes's Froissart*, Vol. I. p. 439.

Gyfarch, Ystym Cegid, Clemnney, Bryn kir, Glassfryn, or Cwmstral-lyn; the other was derived from *Collwyn ap Tangno*, and consisted of the houses of *Whilog, Bron y Foel, Berkin, Gwynfryn, Tal hen Bont*, now *Plas Hen*, and *Pennardd*. In the days I allude to the feuds among the gentry, filled the land with blood. The history of our country during that period, is the history of revenge, perfidy, and slaughter*.”

So high did the contentions run, says Sir John Wynne, that “they would even fight for the first good morrow,” where a more ostensible cause could not be found. The first of the quarrels that I shall mention, commenced about the year 1468, the seventh of Edward IV.—There subsisted in Wales at this period, and it is not yet entirely done away, a kind of connection unknown in England, that of *foster parent*. When a child was given to another family to be nurtured and educated, which was very commonly done, an attachment took place that was esteemed equally inviolable with the one betwixt the child and its natural parents.†

Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, of *Gesailgyfarch*, about a mile from *Penmorfa*, was brought up under John ap Meredith, as his foster-father. Jevan married the sister of Howell ap Rhys, of *Bron y Voel* a house not far distant, but, in consequence of his attachment to John ap Meredith, his foster-father, betwixt whose family and that of Howell, there had always subsisted feuds and jealousies, these became almost entirely transferred to him. Howell’s second wife, (for his first wife was also the sister of Jevan,) was afflicted with a most quarrelsome and ungovernable disposition, and she became the principal agent in the fomentation of the disputes betwixt the houses. In times when the most villainous stratagems were adopted to ill treat, or even to assassinate an enemy, it was necessary in so wild a country as this, that every man should be constantly on his guard, and never appear abroad unarmed. Howell made several attempts to destroy Jevan, all of which had proved unsuccessful. At length he received information that

* Pennant’s Tour in Wales, Vol. II. p. 369.

that Jevan and some friends were going to Lanvihangel, a village about three miles from his house, to meet a large party, who were to exercise in various feats of activity. Howell, in consequence, hired an assassin, and formed the following plan to murder him. He collected together a strong party of his adherents, who were to surprise them in their journey, and when in the confusion of battle, every one's attention was engaged, the man, who was a stranger, had directions to go carefully behind the tallest and most handsome man of the whole company and to knock him down. "You will easily distinguish him (says Howell) by his immense stature : but he has a foster-brother, Robin ap Inko, a little fellow who is always near him ; be aware of this man, for however hot the encounter may be, he is generally on the watch for his brother's safety."—Jevan set out on horseback with his friends, in the morning, His wife accompanied them, on foot, about a mile of the road, when she returned. In her way back she met her brother Howell, with a company of armed men, riding in the same direction, and immediately guessing at the intent of the expedition, intreated him to desist and return home. He attempted to push past her, when she snatched at the horse's bridle, but not succeeding, from his turning suddenly round, she caught hold of the tail. By this she suffered herself to be dragged along, imploring them with tears to spare her husband's life. But being forced to give up her hold, by a blow on the arm from Howell's sword, she sprung before him to a narrow place, where there was a wooden bridge, over which he must pass. Stepping on this, she tore away the hand-rail, and threw it with such fury, and with so sure an aim at his head, that had he not evaded the blow, it would infallibly have brought him to the ground.

Howell and his party pushed by the lady, and soon overtook their adversaries, whom they found much inferior to themselves in number. Certain of success, they made the onset, and Jevan and his friends bore the attack with the utmost bravery. The assassin, attentive to his orders, soon discovered his man,

and approaching behind him, as he thought unobserved, aimed a blow at his head,—but Robin ap Inko, who was at hand, laid him in a moment breathless on the ground. This closed the business of the day, for Howell called out to his men, that it was time to be gone, since Robin ap Inko had been so ill-watched.

Not long after this contention, the parson of Llanfrothen took a child of Jevan's to foster. This was a new source of jealousy to Howell's wife, since her husband possessed more land in the parish than Jevan. She therefore formed a scheme to have him murdered. She sent a woman to his house to intreat, under the appearance of poverty, a night's lodging. This being granted without hesitation, the woman about midnight, shrieked so violently, as to induce him to hasten to her relief; when, rushing out of the house, she threatened revenge, under the plea of his having attempted to ravish her. In the morning her brothers, three well known villains, watched the parson as he went to look at his cattle, and murdered him. As in those days none but the men who actually struck the blow, and who, in consequence, were called *Llaw-rudds*, or Red hands, were considered guilty of a murder, only two of these men fled from the country.

In Chirkland, resided the family of Trevors, friends of Howell, and in Oswaldstreland, the Kyffins, friends of Jevan, two parties, as greatly at enmity, as those of whom I am speaking. These had each their friends in different parts of the country, to whom according to the manners of the times, they sent such of their followers for protection as had been guilty of murder or manslaughter; and they in return, afforded refuge to others from their friends. These *Llaw-rudds* hid themselves during the day in the dwelling houses, but at night they generally spent their time in the wine-houses of the family.

Two of the parson's murderers fled into Chirk-land, and Jevan, to punish the villains, came secretly into the neighbourhood, and was on the watch for them for some time, at length with the help of some friends, he discovered, and seized both
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the men. As his enemies immediately received information of it, and began to collect in considerable numbers; he did not however, attempt to escape with them, but was compelled to execute them on the spot.

On his return, Jevan, and seven of his adherents, were riding by moonlight, near Traeth mawr, when an arrow, evidently directed from an adjacent hill side, covered with wood, glanced past them. They stopped, and listening for a moment, shot all at once towards the place from whence they supposed it to proceed; and one of those random arrows fatally punished their enemy, whom they found to be the other man concerned in the murder at Llanfrothen.

It has been remarked that the Llaw-rudds, or murderers, were always taken great care of by the friends of the family from whence they were sent. Howel, therefore, having received information that Jevan and his principal adherents, were about to go to the assizes at Caernarvon, sent for some of his most trusty friends, and, among the rest, for David ap Jenkin, a relation, an outlaw, and a man of great valour, to storm Jevan's house in his absence, seize all the Llaw-rudds, and convey them to be hanged. They commenced the attack early in the morning, and the men who were sleeping in the hall, being roused by the noise, called for assistance to all the outlaws, who were hid in different places around. Jevan's wife, like the good housewives of those days, had risen some time before it was light, to superintend the making of the metheglyn. The wort was boiling, but no sooner did she and her maid understand what was going on, than they laded out the scalding liquor, and bestowed it liberally on the heads of the assailants. This ended, they further assisted the men to defend the house, which was now attacked on all sides. Several breaches were effected in the walls, but so brave was the defence, that no one dared to lead a party through. The whole country, in a few hours, was in a state of alarm, and the tenants and friends of Jevan assembled in great numbers, under the command of the valiant Robin ap In-

ko. A fight was commenced, which lasted all that day, and till the next morning, when coming to a truce, Robin threatened, that if they foolishly persevered till the arrival of a party of friends, which he hourly expected, every man should be put to the sword. Prudence, therefore, dictated a retreat, and when they arrived at Howell's house, David ap Jenkin seriously advised his friend to live on good terms with his brother-in-law, and neighbour, "for be assured," (said he) "that I have met too warm a resistance in his absence, ever to make one with you in attacking his house when he is present." After this exploit, Howell at different times entered into several obligations to keep the peace, and many awards were made by intermediate friends, on the subject of their contentions, but all to no purpose. These did not end till the death of Jevan, who it is said, was seized with the plague at his house at Gefailgyfarch, and died at the early age of thirty-one.*

On a review of these family feuds, generative of such complicated evils, the mind of the moral philosopher is led to reflect on the depraved state of man, in his individual capacity; and the politician must be equally attentive in his enquiries, how far human capability extends, that by action or example in society, may tend to disturb the principles of social order, or interrupt the influence of the laws, necessary for the preservation of right, in every well organized state. The evils which have long happily ceased, arose out of a system of legislation, which at the period it was adopted, might have been comparatively productive of much good: But after the subjugation of Wales, the sad intermixture of the English and Welsh codes, without sufficient discrimination, or equitable execution, as to the nature of the offence, or the quantum of damages; the most flagitious crimes seldom met with any other punishment, than what resulted from the ebullitions of private revenge; and the most atrocious
assaults

* See a more particular account in Bingley's North Wales, Vol. p. 408, and the History of the Gwedir family, published in the Hon. Daines Barrington's Miscellanies, Quarto.

assaults and murders were connived at, for a paltry pretended compensation. In the otherwise excellent Digest of laws by Hywel Dda, there was a *gwerth*, or a price for shedding human blood, as there was a mulct in the Saxon code of a much later period.

In the grand Wallesian system,* it will be seen that a composition was affixed to every species of offence, coming within the criminal jurisdiction, and that a commutation might be insisted on, for injuries committed malice prepense; from the murder of a king to the maiming in the slightest degree, one of his meanest vassals. Reverting from a subject, at which the mind, alive to the principles of justice and the feelings of humanity, recoils, the traveller will find a variety of objects to afford relief. The Antiquary will visit *Dolbenmaen*, where is a circular tower of British workmanship, apparently a signal post to the numerous fortresses, scattered around. *Ystym Cegid*, presents three *cromlechs*, nearly adjacent to each other; above Penmorfa is a small *druidical circle*, with the stones, some deranged, and others fallen; and on *Bwlch craigwen* is a large one of the same kind, almost intire, composed of thirty-eight upright stones. The former has much the appearance of the circle called, “ the *Bride stones*,” in the parish of Biddulph, county of Stafford, described in the *Mona Antiqua*†: and the latter are more like that grand Bardic circle at Rolriect, described in Dr. Plot’s Natural History of Oxfordshire. At the head of some low marshy meadows, lying near the Traeth mawr, under the wild frowning aspect of the *Hedog*, a vast mountain, which separates this part of the vale of Beddgelert, is situated the small village of,

PENMORFA. Had the communication taken place across the peninsula, this might have risen in the scale of importance; at present the church is the only thing, that would induce a traveller to make any diversion from his route. A small monument com-

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memorates

* *Leges Wallicæ*, Lib. III. Cap. I. and II.

† p. 519.

memorates the loyalty, and valour of the lord of Clenneney, a mansion and demesne in the vicinity, by the following inscription:

M. S.

JOHANNES OWEN de

Clenneney in co. Carnarvon militis,

viri

in patriam amoris ardentissimi :

In regem (beatissimum martyrem CAROLUM I um)

indubitatis fidelatis clari ;

qui, ad sacrosanctam majestatem a perduellionem
rabie eripiendam, summa pericula, lubentissime obivit,

Hostium copios non senel fudit, ac fregit :

religionem vindicavit :

Donec, infelici sorte in perditissimorem hominum manus,

Regali jam sanguine imbutas,

inciderit Dux præstantissimus ;

Unde supplex, sese obsessum redimerat

nisi, quod Heroi consummatissimo

Famæ plus, quam vitæ sollicito tale *λυττον* displicuit

Collo igitur imperterrite oblato,

securis aciem retudit divina vis,

Volucrisque facti tardavit alas, donec senex latissimus

CAROLUM 2dum et sibi et suis restitutum viderat.

An. Dni. 1666, et Ætatis suæ 66. placide expiravit.

This eminent character in the internecine warfare, that unhappily was carried on at the period in question, so far as it affected North Wales, bore an arduous and distinguished part. It has been previously stated in the account of Caernarvon castle, how Sir John, having long struggled in the royal cause, was at length overpowered by superior forces, defeated, and taken prisoner; but his emancipation appears providentially singular. On his capture the valorous knight was conveyed to Windsor, where he found five others, the earl of Holland, the lords, Goring, Loughborough, Capel, and Major General Langhorn, deprived of their liberty, for having espoused the same cause. A vote had passed the house for the banishment of these state prisoners, and before it was put in execution, the king was beheaded. Immediately on which event, more sanguinary measures marked the proceedings of the triumphant

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party.

party. An order was issued, to try the duke of Hamilton, the earl of Holland, the lords, Goring and Capel, with Sir John Owen. On the trial he displayed the same intrepidity of spirit, which had been the discriminating trait of his conduct in more fortunate times. Undaunted at the awful situation, in which he stood, when put upon his defence, he replied, " He was a plain gentleman of Wales, who had been always taught to obey the king; that he had served him honestly during the war; and finding many honest men endeavoured to raise forces, whereby they might get him out of prison, he did the like:" and then concluded in a dignified strain, like a man unconscious of guilt, and who was perfectly careless, whether he should receive a favourable or unfavourable issue. The sentence was, that he should be beheaded. On hearing which he bowed to the court, and with a humorous display of fortitude, returned the judges thanks, for their unexpected lenity. Being interrogated, as to what he meant, his answer was prompt, and audible. " It was a great honour to a poor gentleman of Wales, to lose his head, with such noble lords; for by G— he was afraid they would have hanged him*." He might probably have obtained a mitigation of the capital part of the punishment, had he been supplicatory in his conduct. But, as his epitaph states, more *solicitous of character than life*, he neither begged for mercy, nor was a petition preferred to Parliament in his favour: although every effort was exerted in behalf of the other condemned prisoners. To the astonishment however of the house and the world, colonels Hutchinson and Ireton†, became his advocates; the latter observing, " That
there

* Whitelock, quoted by Pennant, Tour in Wales, Vol. I. p. 357.

† That such a man as Hutchinson should have been ready to procure some hearing, for a person so circumstanced as Sir John, is a subject, that excites no surprise; but that Ireton, the sanguinary Ireton, should have ever thought, for a moment, of furthering the cause of clemency, is an anomaly in his character and demonstrates that the most hardened of mankind cannot always be steeled against the feelings of humanity. See a further account of this affair in Mrs. Hutchinson's Memoirs of the life of Colonel Hutchinson; a work elucidatory of many events which occurred, during the civil war.

there was one person for whom no one spoke a word, and therefore requested, that he might be saved by the sole motive and goodness of the House." In consequence, the golden sceptre of mercy was extended towards him; he was ordered to be imprisoned, and after a few months confinement, by petitioning, he obtained his liberty; on which he retired to Clenneny, where he died, and was interred, as stated in the foregoing inscription.

A small distance from Penmorfa, to the south-east, are two small inlets or arms of the sea, denominated *Traeth mawr* and *Traeth bach*, or *bychan*. Across the former sand, at ebb-tide is a ford on the road, leading to Tan-y-bwlch; and another over the latter, lies in the direction to Harlech. These save a very circuitous route. For, otherwise, in both cases the traveller must go round to the bridge over the Glas-llyn, near Beddgelert. Passing these, is often attended with danger, owing to a stream running through each, which swelled by the mountain torrents, have at times an unusual depth of water; and the beds being left unequal in various places by the opposing tide. To a stranger, a *guide* is essentially necessary; and under the most favourable circumstances, these fords are attended with great inconvenience. At the conflux of the two estuaries with the ocean, is a small detached sand bank, called *Gest*, between which, and the two traeths there is a deep channel. In the year 1625, Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir, conceived the great design of gaining both the Traeths, from the sea, by an embankment. He implored the assistance of his illustrious countryman, Sir Hugh Myddleton. Sir John's letter, and Sir Hugh's reply will be the best account that perhaps can be given of the affair; which never was carried into execution for want of money. Sir John's is as follows:

“ Right worthie Sir, my good cousin, and one of the great honors of the nation.

I understand of a greate work that you have performed in the Isle of Wight, in gaininge two thousand acres from the sea. I may saie to you what the Jewes said to Christ---we have heard of thy great workes done abroade, doe somewhat in thine own countrey.

There

There are too washes in Merionethshire, whereon some parte of my being lieth, called Traeth Mawr, and Traeth Bychan, of a great extent of land, and entering into the sea by one issue, which is not a mile broad at full sea, and verie shallow. The fresh currents that run into the sea are both vehement and greate, and carrie with them much sand; besides the southerly winde usually bloweth fulle to the havens mouth, carrieth with it so much sand, that it hath overwhelmed a great quantitie of the ground adjacent. There, and also in the borderinge countreys, abundance of wood, brush, and other materials fit to make mounds, to be had at a verie cheape rate, and easilie brought to the place; which I hear they doe in Lincolnshire, to expell the sea. My skill is little, and my experience none at all in such matters, yet I ever had a desire to further my country in such actions as might be for their profit, and leave a remembrance of my endeavors; but hindred with other matters, I have only wished well, and done nothinge. Now being it pleased God to bring you into this country, I am to desire you to take a ride, the place not being above a daies journey from you: and if you do see the thing fit to be undertaken, I am content to adventure a brace of hundred pounds to joyne with you in the worke.

I have leade ore on my grounds great store, and other minerals near my house; if it please you to come hither, beinge not above too daies journey from you, you shall be most kindly wellcome---it may be, you shall find here that will tend to your commoditie and mine. If I did knowe the day certaine when you would come to view Traeth Mawr, my son Owen Wynn shall attend you there, and conduct you thence to my house. Concluding me verie kindly to you, doe rest,

Your loving cousin and friend,

J. WYNN.

Gwydir,

1st September, 1625.

To the honored Sir HUGH MYDDLETON, Knt. Bart.

HONORABLE SIR,

I have received your kind letter. Few are the things done by me, for which I give God the glory. It may please you to understand my first undertaking of publick works was amongst my owne, within less than a myle of the place where I hadd my first beinge, 24 or 25 years since, in seekinge of coales for the town of Denbigh.

Touching the drowned lands near your lyvinge, there are manye things considerable therein. If to be gayned, which will hardlie be performed without great stones, which was plentifull at the Weight, as well as wood; and great sums of money to be spent, not hundreds, but thousands—and first of all his Majesty's interest must be got. As for myself, I am grown into years, and full of business here at the mynes, the river at London, and other places—my wecklie charge being above 200l.; which maketh me verie unwillinge to undertake anie other worke; and the least of theis, whether the drowned lands or mynes, requireth a whole man, with a large purse. Noble Sir, my desire is great to see you, which should draw me a farr longer waie; yet such are my occasions at this tyme here, for the settlinge of this great worke, that I can hardlie be spared one howre in a daie. My wieff being also here, I cannot leave her in a strange place. Yet my love to publique works, and desire to see you (if God permit) maie another tyme drawe me into those parts. Soe with my heartie comendations I comitt you and all your good desires to God,

Your assured loving couzin to command,

Lodge, Sept. 2, 1625.

HUGH MYDDLETON.

This grand, and noble design, that apparently failed, for want of proper encouragement, and which it was well observed, would require “a whole man with a large purse,” has lately been undertaken by a gentleman, whose capacious and liberal mind, not only embraced individual remuneration, but national utility. W. A. Madocks, Esq. formed first a scheme of regaining a portion of land on the western side of Traeth mawr, which he realised about ten years ago. Recovering
from

from the sea by an embankment of earth, near two miles in length, and of various breadth, a tract, comprising nearly nineteen hundred acres of rich land; which now produces most luxuriant crops of wheat, barley, clover, &c. To this he affixed the appropriate name of *Glandwr*. Such a successful issue induced Mr. M. to attempt the more arduous task, of recovering the greater part of the drowned lands within the Traeth mawr, by extending an embankment right across it, from side to side. In the year 1807, he obtained a grant from the crown, vesting in him and his heirs, or assigns, the whole of these sands, Pont-aber Glas-llyn to the point at Gêst. The bold design was shortly after commenced, and is now, 1810, almost executed. This embankment, is formed of soil, and stones, obtained by blasting the circumjacent rocks, and which are drawn in trams on iron railways, from each extremity, or carried in small vessels. Unforeseen accidents at first occurred, discouraging, but not presenting insurmountable obstacles. The materials often sunk into the sand, or were washed out of their positions by the violent action and re-action of the tides. To obviate these difficulties, a strong coarse kind of matting was formed of rushes, growing abundantly on the adjacent marshes. This was secured by means of stakes, driven into the ground, and with the heavy stones, thrown down upon it, apparently forms a solid and durable foundation. The extent of the line, from north to south, is about a mile; the breadth of the embankment at the base, one hundred feet, and at top thirty. On the eastern side of this a turnpike road is intended to be made, for the purpose of forming a communication between the counties of Caernarvon, and Merioneth. On the north side of the Traeth, a new channel has been cut, to divert the waters descending from the mountains to a tide bridge, constructed of slate stone, comprising five arches, which form so many sluices, stopped by double gates, shutting towards the sea in an angular position.* These are intended to move automatically,

* In the river sides of these are drop floodgates, or hatches, sliding in grooves, for the future purpose of irrigating the recovered lands.

matically, closing with the influent tide, and opening occasionally, with the reflux back water. This grand undertaking, in September last, 1810, was accomplished, except about one hundred yards, nearly in the centre, the bank having been carried on from each extremity. The filling up of this small chasm, is considered the trying point; for as the water course has been narrowed, the operations have been impeded. At first, an attempt was made of uniting the two ends, by means of arches, formed with large loose stones; and filling up the apertures, one by one; but this having been found impracticable, from the sea sweeping several of them away, the former plan of throwing down stones at each end, was again adopted. Through this gap the tide ran with amazing rapidity, and tremendous force; and the most favourable state of it must therefore be chosen, for the completion of the work. It does not however appear, when this desideratum is effected, that every obstacle will be removed. For it is observable, the embankment, having been principally composed of loose rocky fragments, the tide in both its influent and reflux state runs through in several places. The question therefore seems to be dubious, whether or not the sea will be propitious, or unpropitious to the design. Should it throw up by deposition a quantity of sand, so as to form an inclined plane, or shelving heap, against the embankment, the work may probably stand for ages; but if in its vagaries the sands should be shifted to another quarter, the action and re-action of back and front waters must inevitably mar the whole. This, however, it is most devoutly to be desired may never happen, as every lover of his country and admirer of useful projects, will most cordially wish the patriotic spirit, that commenced, may see a successful issue to the great undertaking; and be rewarded by the fine estate it was intended to realize. The quantity of land, that will be thus regained, should the scheme happily succeed, is about five thousand acres, exclusive of what will in consequence be drained or secured from the injuries of floods: out of which land so drained and secured, Mr. M. will be entitled to one fifth part; or a portion of the annual value to that amount. On

On a portion of the former regenerated tract, nine feet beneath low water mark, stands the small town of TREMADOC.* The shape is an oblong square, the eastern side of which is by a handsome market house, over which are good assembly rooms. On the other sides of the area range the houses, which are recently, and well built. A small church, in the pointed style, is situated on one side of an intended new street; and on the other, a neat place of worship for Protestant dissenters. Thus Mr. M. seems, with a truly tolerant spirit, to have endeavoured to accommodate the inhabitants of his new town, with respect to their religious tenets; in a commercial view also, by the establishment of a bank; and the traveller is not forgotten: for exclusive of several other public-houses, the Tremadoc Arms is a respectable and comfortable inn. Several good houses have been lately erected in the vicinity; and at a small distance from the town is,

TANY YR ALT the residence of *William Alexander Madocks, Esq.* This is a neat modern mansion, constructed on a plan indicative of considerable architectural taste; and elevated on a lofty rock, overlooking the town, amidst flourishing plantations, together with its singularly neat lodge, assumes a picturesque and pleasing appearance. The way from hence, towards Beddgelert lies for some distance, under perpendicular cliffs of great height, full of chasms and fissures; and after heavy rains, or long continued frosts, immense masses are detached from the impending precipices, and fall with a tremendous crash; bestrewing the margin of the road with numerous fragments of rock, and at times some are of sufficient magnitude, to obstruct the passage. This road, extending on the northern side of the Traeth mawr, when the tide is at flood, from the effect produced by such a fine piece of water, and the opposite scenery of the Merionethshire coast; affords a very delightful ride to

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* This place, lately risen, as it were, out of the sea, is twenty miles south of Caernarvon, nineteen south-west of Capel Curig, ten north of Harlech, and seven west of Beddgelert.

PONT-ABER-GLASLLYN.* This *bridge*, which connects Caernarvonshire with Merionethshire, and forms the principal communication between the two counties, consists of one wide stone arch of thirty feet chord, thrown over a roaring water fall, and struck from two perpendicular precipices; it however exhibits nothing extraordinary in the structure; but the scenery around is most magnificently striking. "Here," says Mr. Wyndham, "we paused---the grandeur of the scene before us impressed a silent admiration on our senses. We at length moved slowly onward, contemplating the wonderful chasm. An impending craggy cliff, at least 800 feet high, projects from every part of its broken front, stupendous rocks of the most capricious forms, and shadows, a most translucent torrent, which rages like a cataract amid the huge ruins fallen from the mountain. The disjointed fragments of the opposite declivity, crushing their mouldering props, seem scarcely prevented from overwhelming the narrow ridge, which forms the road† on the brink of the flood. The romantic imagination of *Salvator Rosa* was never fired with a more tremendous idea, nor has his extravagant pencil ever produced a bolder precipice."‡ Nothing is opposed to the eye, but a series of the rudest cliffs, consisting of similar strata, divided by a serpentine chasm, and raised tier upon tier, high piled from earth to heaven, they seem to bid

* This is frequently denominated the *Devil's Bridge*, an appellation, that appears to have originated in an error of the author of "The Letters from Snowdon," who has confounded it with *Pont ar Monach*, in the county of Cardigan; a remarkable arch extending over a much narrower and deeper chasm. The description there given has misled many a traveller, who like Mr. Bingley, had previously expected to "see an arch thrown across a deep narrow valley, and hanging as it were in mid air; but how disappointed, to find it a bridge very little out of the usual form."

† This road which so late as Mr. Pennant's visit, after being formed with incredible labour, has lately been sufficiently widened to permit carriages to pass each other, and is bounded on the lower side with a stone wall.

‡ A Gentleman's Tour through Monmouthshire and Wales, p. 136.

Engraved by Stury from a drawing by H. Noë.



for the Beauties of England and Wales.

bid defiance to the traveller's advance, and prohibit all further access to the alpine heights before him.

“ Fled are fairy views of hill and dale,
 Sublimely thron'd on the steep mountain brow
 Stern Nature frowns ; her desolating rage
 Driving the whirlwind, or swoln flood or blast
 Of fiery air imprison'd, from their base
 Has wildly hurl'd th' uplifted rocks around
 The gloomy pass where Aberglaslyn's arch
 Yawns o'er the torrent. The disjointed crags
 O'er the steep precipice in fragments vast
 Impending, to th' astonished mind recal
 The fabled horrors by demoniac force
 Of Lapland wizards wrought, who borne upon
 The whirlwind's wing, what time the vext sea
 Dash'd against Norwegia's cliffs, to solid mass
 Turned the swollen billows, and the o'er hanging waves
 Fix'd e'er they fell.”

With every deference to the learned translator of Giraldus, from the tenor of the narrative this must have been the spot, where several of the princes of Meirion's people, received from arch-bishop Baldwin, the sign of the cross ; and this extraordinary pass, the scenery, that induced the monk to observe, “ This territory of Conan, and particularly Merionyth, is the rudest and roughest district of all Wales ; the ridges of its mountains are very high and narrow, terminating in sharp peaks, and so irregularly jumbled together, that if the shepherds conversing together from their summits should agree to meet, they could scarcely effect their purpose in the course of the whole day.”*

Through this astonishing ravine flows, or rather tumbles, a broad, and at times, a powerful river, formed by two streams, issuing out of several lakes on the south-western side of Snowdon ; one of which is denominated, the *Glas-llyn*, or blue-lake, from its waters frequently assuming that colour by the reflection of passing clouds. A little above the bridge, is a small cataract,

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or

* Hoare's Giraldus, Vol. II. p. 78.

or perpendicular ledge of rock, which forms a remarkable salmon leap. Here travellers are frequently amused,* by observing the fish in the season, making their efforts to surmount the barrier, for the purpose of depositing their spawn in the sandy shallows. A salmon fishery was established here at a very early period. The salmon was esteemed the most valuable fish among the Welsh, enumerated in their list of game, and received the cognizance of the laws, for its preservation. The weir at this place was vested in the crown, during the reign of Henry the fourth, from whom it was rented by Robert ap Meredydd. It is now private property, let to some fishermen, for a small annual rent. Near the bridge, in the circumjacent lofty cliffs, are several vertical shafts, which have been sunk in quest of copper, and several adits or levels, driven for draining, &c. Though the ore obtained was a grey sulphate of copper, of a rich quality, yielding from five to ten per cent of metal; yet, till very lately, little advantage was derived from the concern. A company some time since obtained a lease of the mountain from the proprietor, Mr. Lloyd, and having placed an intelligent agent in a house near the mines, and erected a stamping-mill with other machinery, the work is now conducted with spirit, and promises to become a profitable speculation.

Every step in this sublime, and unrivalled pass, unfolds new scenery; the strata assume all shapes, and all colours, from the lightest grey to the darkest hues of brown and black: and when the sun emerges from behind the enveloping clouds, the variegated summits are enriched with the most brilliant tints of light, and gold. The mountains now diverge and open into a kind of *trivium*, where three narrow vallies meet. Near the
conflux

* It is at the latter end of the year, seldom before October, that the Salmon leave the sea, and press up towards the fresh water; hence the disappointment of many, who have in the *summer* months "waited on the bridge for a considerable time, in order to see the fish perform the feat of agility." They effect it by bending their tails to their mouths, thus forming a circular spring, and then giving a sudden jerk. This property is alluded to by the piscatory poet. Ansonius, in his admirable descriptive poem, intitled "*Mosella*."



Engraved by White, from a Drawing by J.P. Neale.

BELVIDERE

for the Houses of England & Wales.

conflux of the Colwyn and the Glasllyn, stands the small village of *Beddgelert*. Here was once a *priory*, dedicated to St. Mary, for monks of the Augustine order;* the foundation of which Tanner ascribes to the last Llewelyn: but except Bardsey, this was probably the most ancient monastic institution in North Wales. For it appears from grants of lands, made by divers benefactors, that it subsisted long prior to that period: and Rymer recites, in his *Fœdera*,† a charter in which certain lands were bestowed on it by Llewelyn ap Jorwerth, who commenced his reign in the year 1194. A traditionary account, recorded by the bards, states that he was the founder, and that on a most extraordinary occasion. The prince had a hunting seat at this place, and during the absence of the family, a wolf entered the house, and Llewelyn returning first, was met at the door by his favourite greyhound Gelert,‡ whose mouth was covered with blood. The prince alarmed at the circumstance, hastened to the nursery, where he found the cradle overturned, and the ground wet with gore. In his momentary alarm for the fate of his infant son, supposing it had been killed by the dog, he drew his sword, and stabbed the animal while caressing his master. But what was the consternation of the latter, when on turning up the cradle, he found his son alive, and sleeping by the side of the wolf; which had been slain by the faithful and vigilant Gelert. The circumstance appears to have had such an effect on the prince's mind, that he erected a tomb over the dog's grave, on the spot, where subsequently the conventual church was built, which was, from this incident, denominated *Bedd Gelert*, or the grave of Gelert. Here he also

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founded

* Mr. Pennant says, "There is reason to suppose they might have been of that class, called *Gilbertmes*; and consisted of both men and women, who lived under the same roof, but strictly separated from each other, by a wall; as I discovered a piece of ground, near the church, called *Doly Lleian*, or the meadow of the nun." *Tour in Wales*, Vol. II. p. 355.

† Tom. II. 316.

‡ This dog had been a present to Llewelyn, from his father-in-law, king John.

founded a monastery for the good of his soul, and as a grateful offering to divine Providence, for the preservation of his child.

In the year 1289 it was severely injured by fire, when Edward the First, by his sole munificence, repaired the damages; and bishop Arian, as an inducement for benefactors to come forward, and enable the prior to use his accustomed hospitality; remitted by an indulgence, forty days, of any penance, they might previously have been enjoined, for past transgressions. It was given by Henry the Eighth, in 1535, to the Abbey of Chertsey in Surry; and the annual revenues, at the Dissolution, amounted by Dugdale's valuation to 72l. 8s. 8d.; by Speed's 69l. 3s. 8d. No part of the building now remains, but it is probable the present church has at times, been repaired out of the ruins.

The village consists of a few straggling cottages, and one little distinguished from the rest, was a few years past the only place, where the traveller could obtain refreshment. He will now find a comfortable inn, with excellent accommodations; whether he proceeds on horseback, or in a carriage: and a more pleasing, or convenient station he cannot take, for making excursions to some of the most interesting scenes in this, and the adjacent county.

After passing between the two small lakes of *Llyn y cader*, and *Llyn y Dywarchen* the fine expansive piece of water, called *Llyn Carwellyn*, presents itself, at the foot of *Mynydd mawr*, a vast precipice, receding inwards in a semilunar shape, forming a bold barrier to the lake, which is more than a mile and a half in length, and nearly three quarters in breadth. The waters are so translucid, that the reflections of the passing clouds over its surface, in different state of weather, produce a highly pleasing, and diversified effect. *Cawellyn* abounds with the *red char*,* the *Salmo alpinus* of Linnæus, a fish peculiar to alpine lakes. The char fishing generally commences about the beginning of January, and continues for a month; sometimes longer,

* In Welsh *Torgoch*, or red bellies.



Engraved by Sands from a Drawing by J.P. Mole

NANT MILL,
Caernarvonshire

For sale by Messrs. J. & W. G. & Co. London and Walsley.

longer. They are caught with nets, no instance having been recorded, of their having been taken by angling. Calm frosty weather is the most favourable to the sport, because it is the spawning season : for during the rest of the year the fish keep in deep water at the bottom of the lake. They are about eight or nine inches in length, and considered delicious eating. At the end of the lake, on a lofty rock, that constitutes a part of Mynydd mawr, stood *Castell Cidwm*, one of the forts erected for the defence of this avenue into the country ; the other, long since demolished, was situated at Nant, near the foot of Moel Eilio.

NANT a small neat mansion-house, standing on the eastern side of the road upon a pleasing elevation, is a seat and occasional residence, belonging to *Sir Robert Williams, Bart.*

Beyond a mountainous pass called *Drws y coed*,* are two fine expanses of water, adjacent to each other, denominated *Llinnau Nanlle*. From these by the traveller reverting his position, and looking through the vista, the summits of Snowdon appear full in view ; and from these *Wilson* sketched his grand and inimitable painting, of that prince of mountains.

To the north east of Beddgelert the mountains recede from each other, leaving a small opening, which constitutes the highly romantic pass of NANT HWYNAN, or *Nant Gwynant*, the valley of waters.† This Mr Pennant styles, “ the most beautiful vale in Snowdonia ; and truly for six miles of the extent, its picturesque features stand unrivalled. It affords such multifarious scenery, composed of luxuriant meads, watered by expansive lakes,

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whence

* The strata about this place exhibit strong indications of minerals, and a very large mining concern for copper, was some years since carried on for a time ; but from the mine being exhausted, or the low price of the metal, the work was abandoned : and the proprietors, it is said, found themselves, on closing the account, considerable losers by the undertakings.

† “ Possibly *Nanthwynen* might be originally *Nant Gwynen*, Gwy meaning water, and nen the top, or summit, which may be rendered water falling from above ; or perhaps *Nanhwynen* might derive its name from *Gwy nant* i. e. The watery vale.” *Williams's Observations*, &c. p. 50.

whence issue numerous streams, that meander towards the sea; and circumvented by august boundaries, finely clothed with wood far up their sides, above which they lift their bare and rugged summits to the skies in all the diversity of colouring; so that the beauty and order, so admirably described by the elegant Mason, are here actually exhibited to the enraptured view.

“ Vivid green,
Warm brown, and black opaque, the foreground bears
Conspicuous. Sober olive coldly marks
The second distance. Thence the third declines
In softer blue, or lessening still, is lost in
Faintest purple.”

About a short mile up this valley, on the left, rises a lofty rock forming part of the mountain barrier, on which it is said *Vortigern* had his residence previous to his final retreat from the persecution of his subjects, to Nant Gwrtheyrn in the vicinity of Nefyn. This he bestowed upon his favourite soothsayer, *Ambrosius*; and the spot still retains the appellation of *Dinas Emrys*, or the fort of Ambrossius, called in Wesh *Merddin Emrys*. On the top of this precipitous rock, is a considerable area, the accessible part of which is defended by two large ramparts: within this are the remains of a stone-building, about ten yards in length; and the walls, though built without mortar, appear very thick and strong. Near this, a place, allusive to the magical story of Vortigern and his court, is called *Cell y dewiniaid*, or the cell of the Diviners.

Here, “ Prophetic Merlin sate, when to the British king
The changes long to come, auspiciously, he told.
And from the top of Brith, so high and wond’rous steep
Where Dinas Emris stood, shewed where the serpent fought,
The *white* that tore the *red*, from whence the prophet wrought
The Briton’s sad decay, then shortly to ensure.”*

This

* Drayton’s *Polyolbion* Song. X. where in Selden’s notes will be found a curious and circumstantial account of this wonderful personage, and his supernatural exploits. Mathew of Westminster has also given a long detail of

This Merddin is represented in legendary story, as the son of a vestal virgin, begotten by an *incubus*; consequently endowed with miraculous and predictive powers;* and numerous prophecies are attributed to him, the copying, or recital of which, was prohibited by the council of Trent. But the traveller will pleurably turn away from the recollection of such absurdities, to view the beautiful *Llyn y Dinas*, filling the vale with its expansive waters; favoured for a large and well-flavoured trout; and affording the effects of contrast and vividity to the surrounding scenery. Two miles beyond this rises, with unwieldy bulk, *Y Aran*, under which is a romantic hollow, denominated *Cwm Llan*, extending on the left towards Snowdon, whose summit is here finely visible between the intervening mountains. Numerous trees, issuing out of the rocky clefts, at the feet and sides, tend greatly to relieve the eye from the fatiguing dull uniformity of the mountain. At the same time a neat modern mansion, embosomed in woods, with a small lawn in front, forms a fine close to the upper end of the lake. The mountains here converge, but soon recede, and another lake *Llyn Gwynant*,† presents itself to view. This is about three quarters of a mile in length, and nearly fills the valley, leaving little more than space for the continuation of the road. Near this are the ruins of a small chapel, erected and endowed by a *Mr. John Williams*, a goldsmith in London.‡ Near the upper part

the latter traits of character, in the life of Vortigern; and a full description of Merlin's prophecies. These written in prose, were translated into Latin by Geoffrey of Monmouth; and an English edition, 4to. was published, with his life annexed, in London, 1641.

* Merddin appears to have been an able mathematician, astronomer, and poet, qualifications sufficient to obtain for him, in the days of general ignorance, the name of *magician*. He was probably bard and counsellor to Vortigern, as he subsequently was to the successor of that prince, Ambrosius, who bestowed upon him the honourable distinction of his own name.

† This lake is denominated *Llyn Gwinedd*, in Evans's map of North Wales.

‡ Born in this vale, he went on adventures, in early life, to the metropolis, where he accumulated a considerable fortune, and then retired to his native place, to spend, in religious quietude, the remainder of his days. He was a distinguished collecting antiquary; and the person, it is said, who furnished Michael Drayton, the poet, with Leland's posthumous papers.

part of the vale are two immense fragments of rock, one of which is in shape, like the gable of a large house; and far exceeds in bulk the enormous *Bowdar* stone, near Derwentwater in Borrowdale. Here the mountain barrier divides, opening into Nantperis, and further into Nant Cerrig; on the right the lofty *Shiabod* lifts his dark brown head, and on the left is the cataract *Rhaiadr Cwm dyli*. It consists of two distinct waterfalls, formed by a rivulet, issuing from the alpine pool in the mountains above, called *Llyn Llwydaw*. This, interrupted by two rocky ledges, breaks in foam and spray down their broken fronts; and, during rainy weather, produces a grand effect.

Near Llyn Cawellyn, about the midway between Beddgelert and Caernarvon, is the usual mode of ascent to Snowdon, near which is a small inn, the residence of an intelligent and useful guide. Mr. Bingley selected this for one of his alpine excursions. "We first went along some meadows, which extend up the sides of the mountain, for about half a mile. Leaving these, after some time, we came to Bwlch Cwm Brwynog, *The hollow of the vale of Brwynog*, a kind of gap between the mountains which overlook that vale. This place is reckoned about half way to the top, and persons who visit the mountain on horse-back, usually ride thus far, leaving their horses here to the care of their servants till they return. We passed by Llyn Ffynnon y Gwas, *The Servant's Pool*. The path I found all the way exceedingly tiresome. A little above the pool I had to pass for near a quarter of a mile over immense masses of rocks, lying over each other in almost every direction, and entirely destitute of vegetation.* The view from the summit I found beyond my expectation extensive. From this point the eye is able to trace, on a clear day, part of the coast, with the hills of Scotland; the high mountains of Westmoreland and Cumberland; and, on this side, some of the hills of Lancashire. When the atmosphere is very transparent, even part of the county of Wicklow, and the whole of the Isle of Man,

* A track lately cut for the passing of sledges from the copper mine at the foot of *Clogwyn y Garnedd*, has in some degree obviated these difficulties.



Engraved by W. Smith from a drawing by J. F. Elton

SNOWDON.

For the Beauties of England & Wales.

Man, become visible. The immediately surrounding mountains of Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire all seem directly under the eye, and the highest of the whole appear from this station much lower than Snowdon. Many of the vales were exposed to the view, which, by their verdure, relieved the eye from the dreary scene of barren rocks. The numerous pools visible from hence, betwixt thirty and forty, lend also a varied character to the prospect. The mountain itself, from the summit, seems as it were propped by five immense rocks as buttresses. These are Crib y Ddistill and Crib Coch, between Llanberis and Capel Curig; Lliwedd towards Nan Hwynan; Clawdd Coch towards Beddgelert; and Lechog, the mountain which forms the south-side of the vale of Llanberis, towards Dolbadarn.

The summit of Snowdon is so frequently enveloped in clouds and mist, that, except when the weather is perfectly fine and settled, the traveller through this country will find it somewhat difficult to have a day sufficiently clear to permit him to ascend the mountain. When the wind blows from the west it is almost always completely covered; and at other times, even when the state of the weather seems favourable, it will often become suddenly enveloped, and will remain in that state for hours. Most persons, however, agree, that the prospects are the more interesting, as they are more varied, when the clouds just cover the summit. The following description of the scenery from Snowdon when the mountain is in this state is perfectly accurate :

Now high and swift flits the thin rack along
Skirted with rainbow dies, now deep below
(While the fierce sun strikes the illumin'd top)
Slow sails the gloomy storm, and all beneath
By vaporous exhalation hid, lies lost
In darkness; save at once where drifted mists
Cut by strong gusts of eddy winds, expose
The transitory scene.
Now swift on either side the gather'd clouds,
As by a sudden touch of magic, wide

Recede

Recede, and the fair face of heaven and earth
 Appears. Amid the vast horizon's stretch,
 In restless gaze the eye of wonder darts
 O'er the expanse; mountains on mountains pil'd,
 And winding bays, and promontories huge,
 Lakes and meandering rivers, from their source
 Traced to the distant ocean."*

Mr. Warner,† appears to have taken an unusual direction for obtaining a view of the scenic grandeur, exhibited to the sight from the summit of the majestic Snowdon. The pedestrian and his companions, attended by a guide, ascended from Nant Gwynant, keeping to the left of Y Aran mountain above *Cwm Llan*, and passing the lofty *Llidiaw*; and after bustling and toiling up a tremendously rugged steep, *in two hours* they attained the object of their wishes, a prospect, under a clear sky, from the usually cloud-capt peak of Snowdon. Neither of these, however, is the preferable route, as will appear from the following brief, but useful, directions, furnished by a gentleman who has frequently made excursions up the mountain, and resides near its base.

"The best route to the top of Snowdon is either to walk, ride on horseback, or take a chaise, to a place called *Cwm y Glo-Llanrug*, about four miles from Caernarvon, and a good road; there take boat up the lower *Llan Beris* lake; more properly called *Llyn Padarn*; then land on the little isthmus between the pools; just below the old castle, *Dol Badarn*, take a guide from thence, and ascend by *Caunant Mawr*, the great chasm, where is a fine water-fall; climb up along the south-side of the ridge separating *Llan Beris* Hollow, from *Cwm Brwynog*, another hollow or mountain flat, then go up in sight of *Llyn Du Yr Arddu*, which you must leave on the right; the steep rock above the *Arddu* Pool is celebrated amongst botanists; here the *Anthericum serotinum* grows, &c. then you ascend along a steep place, called *Llechwedd y Re*, from thence to the famous cold

* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 250—262, &c.

† Walk through Wales in August, 1797, p. 126.

cold spring, or well, which is within a mile of the highest peak, called Wyddva, the conspicuous. The steep, and almost inaccessible, crags on the north-side of this highest summit of Snowdon, Clogwyn y Garnedd, are well known to botanists as the habitats of rare alpine or mountain plants; but the traversing and climbing them is very hazardous, and often dangerous; as they are in general very slippery, and, after rain, fragments of rocks give way, and roll down with a thundering noise to the pools below.

“The distance from Dol Badarn Castle to the top of Snowdon is about four miles. The usual ascent now is from Quethlinn pools (Llyn Cwellyn in Welsh, anciently called Llyn Tarddenni, as Leland informs us); but this route is very boggy and wet in some places, and extremely rocky and stony in others: the distance from this pool is much the same as that from Dol Badarn Castle, viz. about four miles. Another ascent begins about three miles on the Caernarvon side of the Bethgelert road: this is extremely steep and dangerous, as the ridge Cludd Coch, along which you ascend, is not above two yards wide for a considerable way, and you may drop a stone from each hand, and before they would stop they would be at the distance of two miles from each other; as one would roll a mile on the west side, and the other the same distance to the east.”*

Mr. Pennant took the most eligible of these, and proceeded by the side, accessible from Nantperis, which he thus pleasantly describes. “In the course of our ascent, saw on the left, above the cwm, Moel y Cynghorion, or the hill of Council. Pass through Bwlch y Macs-cwm, and skirt the side of Snowdon, till we reach Bwlch y Cwm Brwynog, where the ascent becomes very difficult, on account of its vast steepness. People here usually quit their horses. We began a toilsome march, clambering among the rocks. On the left were the precipices over Cwm Brwynog, with Llyn du yr Arddwy at their

* Communicated in a letter from that distinguished and eminent British antiquary, the Rev. Peter Williams, rector of Llanrug and Llanberis.

their foot. On our right were those over the small lakes Llyn Glas, Llyn-y-Nadroedd, and Llyn Goch. The last is the highest on this side of the mountain; and on whose margins, we were told, that, in days of fairies, those diminutive gentry kept their revels. This space between precipice and precipice, formed a shoot, and no very agreeable isthmus, till we reached a verdant expanse, which gave us some respite, before we labored up another series of broken crags: after these, is a second smooth tract, which reaches almost to the summit, which, by way of pre-eminence, is styled Y WYDDFA, or The Conspicuous. It rises almost to a point, or, at best, there is but one room for a circular wall of loose stones, within which travellers usually take their repast.

The mountain from hence seems propped by four vast buttresses; between which are four deep cwms, or hollows: each, excepting one, has one or more lakes, lodged in its distant bottom. The nearest was Ffynnon Las, or the Green Well, lying immediately below us: one of the company had the curiosity to descend a very bad way to a jutting rock, that impended over the monstrous precipice; and he seemed like Mercury ready to take his flight from the summit of Atlas. The waters of Ffynnon Las, from this height, appeared black and unfathomable, and the edges quite green. From thence is a succession of bottoms, surrounded by lofty and rugged hills, the greatest part of whose sides are perfectly mural, and form the most magnificent amphitheatre in nature. The Wyddfa is on one side; Crib-y-distill, with its serrated tops, on another; Crib Goch, a ridge of fiery redness, appears beneath the preceding; and opposite to it is the boundary called Lliwedd. Another very singular support to this mountain is Y Clawdd Goch, rising into a sharp ridge, so narrow, as not to afford breadth even for a path.

The view from this exalted situation is unbounded. In a former tour, I saw from it the county of Chester, the high hills of Yorkshire, part of the north of England, Scotland, and Ireland: a plain view of the Isle of Man; and that of Anglesey

lay extended like a map beneath me, with every rill visible. I took much pains to see this prospect to advantage: sat up at a farm on the west till about twelve, and walked up the whole way. The night was remarkably fine and starry: towards morn, the stars faded away, and left a short interval of darkness, which was soon dispersed by the dawn of day. The body of the sun appeared more distinct, with the rotundity of the moon, before it rose high enough, to render its beams too brilliant for our sight. The sea which bounded the western part was gilt by its rays, first in slender streaks, at length glowing with redness. The prospect was disclosed like the gradual drawing up of a curtain in a theatre. We saw more and more, till the heat became so powerful, as to attract the mists from the various lakes, which, in a slight degree, obscured the prospect. The shadow of the mountain was flung many miles, and shewed its bicapitated form; the Wyddfa making one, the Crib-y-distill the other, head. I counted this time between twenty and thirty lakes, either in this county, or Meirioneddshire. The day proved so excessively hot, that my journey cost me the skin of the lower part of my face, before I reached the resting-place, after the fatigue of the morning.

On this day, the sky was obscured very soon after I got up. A vast mist enveloped the whole circuit of the mountain. The prospect down was horrible. It gave an idea of numbers of abysses, concealed by a thick smoke, furiously circulating around us. Very often a gust of wind formed an opening in the clouds, which gave a fine and distinct vista of lake and valley. Sometimes they opened only in one place; at others, in many at once, exhibiting a most strange and perplexing sight of water, fields, rocks, or chasms, in fifty different places. They then closed at once, and left us involved in darkness; in a small time they would separate again, and fly in wild eddies round the middle of the mountains, and expose, in parts, both tops and bases clear to our view. We descended from this various scene with great reluctance; but before we reached our horses, a thunder-storm overtook us. Its rolling among the mountains

was inexpressibly awful, the rain uncommonly heavy. We remounted our horses, and gained the bottom with great hazard. The little rills, which, on our ascent, trickled along the gullies on the sides of the mountains, were now swelled into torrents; and we and our steeds passed with the utmost risque of being swept away by these sudden waters. At length we arrived safe, yet sufficiently wet and weary, to our former quarters.”*

“Sons of the world from busy towns and care,
Here greet Hygeia in untainted air,
Catch from her smiles the vivifying flame,
And grateful boast a renovated frame.
Here Nature prides in charms to *you* unknown,
Forms the rare plant and rears the Eagle’s throne,
Where Ocean, Man and Mona---boundless themes
Can realize e’en Fancy’s wildest dreams.
Here rivers rushing from the upland lake,
With distant roar, on rural stillness break;
Now, slow, serene, the placid currents creep,
Now, roll terrific from the threatening steep;
While rills unnumbered fill the fluid train
And proudly roll with Ogwen to the Main.”†

LLOYD.

Snowdon, from ancient testimony, appears to have been held in as high veneration among the Britons, as the celebrated Ida among the Cretans, and Parnassus, connected with classic fame, of the Achaïans. Like that, it is bifurcate, having its *Nissa* and *Cirrho*, its Crib y distill, and y wyddfa; and was, doubtless, an object of adoration, and invocation from the following passage, included in a series of Triambrics, each terminating with a moral precept; supposed to be the *Englynion*, or verses by which the Bardic instructors inculcated upon the minds of their auditors their oral Ethics.

“Ery

* Pennant’s Tours, Vol. II. p. 35.

† “The quantity of water which flows from the lakes of Snowdonia is very considerable; so much, that I doubt not, but collectively they would exceed the waters of the Thames before it meets the flux of the ocean.” Pennant’s Tours in Wales, Vol. II. p. 336.

“ Eryr Mynydd, caled’ grawn
Dail ar gychwyn, Llynwyn llawn,
Nag ymddiried i estrawn.”

“ Nivean hill, the harvests grow
The leaves descend, the lakes o’erflow :
Confide in none thou dost not know.”*

According to the testimony of Gildas, our ancestors worshipped mountains and rivers. It is certain they paid a particular veneration to them, and some were held peculiarly sacred. To the present day, it is said, and by many believed, that whoever sleeps a night upon the top of Snowdon, will wake up, as much inspired, as those who became poets, by taking a nap on the hill of Apollo.

“ Here too, the Bards, when merit claim’d the meed,
The strain that gave to other days the deed,
Invok’d the *Hill* the verse-inspiring spring,
And quitted earth on Rapture’s rising wing ;
E’en now, unknown to cultivating care,
Some *genial plant* may feel this chilling air ;
May bud, unseen, the village oak beneath,
Or bloom, unheeded, on the barren heath :
And though its tints Depression’s mists may shroud,
Some beam may yet pervade th’ incumbent cloud,
Some friendly hand its glowing dies may spread,
And shew its bloom on Flora’s gayest bed.”

LLOYD.

The following description of a descent into the vale of Llanberis seems elucidatory of the mountains, poet-making powers. “ Occasional gusts of wind which now roared around us, swept away the pitchy cloud, that involved particular spots of the mountain, and discovered, immediately below us, huge rocks, abrupt precipices, and profound hollows, exciting emotions of astonishment and awe in the mind, which the eye darting down

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* A number of these tetrambic stanzas, each ending with a moral reflection, were collected by Llywarch Hen, a Cambrian prince ; and have been translated by Mr. William Owen : a work previously alluded to in the *Beauties*.

an immense descent of vacuity and horror, conveyed to it under the dreadful image of inevitable destruction.”

NANTPERIS, so justly celebrated for its sublime and diversified scenery, is a highly picturesque valley, bounded by the base of *Snowdon*, *Cefn cwm gafr*, the *Glyder fawr*, and *bach*, and the two *Lliders*; all ranging in the scale of first rate mountains. The upper part is narrow, through which a terrible horse path* ascends over craggy rocks, by what is termed *Gorphwysfa*, or the resting place, whence is a view of the valley which connects those of Nant Hwynant, and Capel Cerrig. Down the centre of this, denominated *Cwm glas* or the blue vale, the rocks rise almost perpendicularly on each side; and millions of huge fragments of every size and shape, detached by some violent convulsions of nature, lie rudely scattered at their base, forming a grand, but forbidding, fore-ground.† This part of the valley assumes no character, but that of a desolated waste, no features of softening beauty, none of those interesting charms which arise from sylvan, or cultivated verdure. But rocks, towering above rocks, till their summits reach the clouds, which, by their gloom, often add sublimity to the scene. Within these are deepened hollows, flanked by towering basaltic-shaped columns. In some parts three or four of these ranges, rising above each other, exhibit the most fantastic outlines imaginable. Receding in the distance, as they ascend in height, and ever varying in forms, and tints, the traveller is interested at every step, by their awfully impressive grandeur. Through this tremendous glen, extending four miles, an alpine torrent, issuing

* The nobility and gentry of the county have had it for some time in contemplation, to make a turnpike road through this valley, to communicate with the one extending from Capel Cerrig to Beddgelert. When this is accomplished, the traveller in Caernarvonshire will have no reason to complain on the subject of roads.

† Among these, an immense stone has fallen, so that two of its sides form an angle with the ground. This, by an additional small inclosure, some time since, served as an *havodty*, or summer residence, for a woman of the adjacent village.

issuing from the lakes above, rushes down its rupestrian bed, foaming and roaring over the huge masses of rock, which partially impede the progress of its waters, to the lakes below.

The village of LLANBERIS, situated where the cwm opens towards the north, and enlivened by some narrow verdant strips, and a few trees, the lagging rear of its once notable sylvan beauty; includes a small group of miserable cottages. The name is derived from *Peris*, a saint, and cardinal, who lived about the middle of the sixth century; a son of Helig ap Glanog. The valley is narrow and almost straight, nearly filled with two small lakes, celebrated, previous to the opening of the copper mines, for the abundance of the *red* and *golden char*. The upper lake, about a mile in length, and nearly half one in breadth, though the least, is the finest piece of water. The depth, is said, in places, to be one hundred and forty yards. The other is about a mile and a half long, but so narrow, as to assume rather the appearance of a river, than a lake. Between these a communication is formed by a stream, and out of the lower issues the river Rythel, which, after flowing in an irregular diffused manner, assumes at Caernarvon the name of Seiont.

On a rocky eminence, near the junction of the two lakes, stand the ruins of *Dolbadern Castle*, so denominated from having been erected on the verge of a piece of land, called *Padern's* meadow. This fortress, by the construction, is evidently of British origin, and probably the same which some historians describe under the appellation of *Bere Castle*, seated in a morass of this county; and which was inaccessible, but by a single causeway, carried through the narrow and rugged defiles of the mountains. It was doubtless built to defend the pass through Nantperis, into the interior of Snowdonia; but who was the founder, or at what period it was erected, is not ascertained. Mr. Pennant observes, "that it was evidently a Welsh prince. I was informed that it was Padarn Beisrydd, son of Idwal." If so, the era of its erection must be referred to the eighth or ninth century.* When well garrisoned, and provi-

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sioned,

* There were three sovereigns over Gwynedd of this name Idwal Iwrch,

sioned, it formed a barrier capable of long and obstinate resistance; and appears to have been frequently appropriated as a state prison.

Owen Goch, with his brother *Llewelyn*, had been appointed to the Northwallian throne, by the election of the Welsh nobility and gentry, convened for securing the lineal descent in British consanguinity. But, dissatisfied with a co-partnership in the government, he induced his younger brother, *David*, to join him in an insurrection, and engage in hostilities against *Llewelyn*, who had been, by the same authority, invested with a moiety. The three brothers having taken the field, a most sanguinary conflict ensued, in which the insurgent princes were defeated, taken prisoners, lodged in confinement;* and within the walls of this fortress, *Owen* miserably languished twenty years. During the long warfare maintained by *Owen Glyndwr*, in the reigns of *Henry the Fourth* and *Fifth*, *Dolbadern Castle* was occasionally in possession of each party, and often warmly contended for as the master key into *Snowdonia*.

The present remains cover the whole summit of the elevation, and consist of foundations of the exterior buildings, and the keep or citadel.† This is a circular tower constructed of the laminated schistose stone, abounding in the vicinity, and cemented with very strong mortar. The inner diameter is about twenty-seven feet, the height about ninety, and thickness of the walls eight. It appears to have consisted of three stories, exclusive of a vaulted basement, used as a dungeon; a few broken steps serve to shew, that the intercommunication was by a spiral staircase.

An insulated hill, at the foot of the lower lake, has upon it an agger

who reigned from A.D. 703 to 728; *Idwal Voel*, who succeeded to the sovereignty, A.D. 913, and died in 944; and *Idwal ap Meirig*, who was slain while defending the Island of *Mona*, by the Danish invader *Sweyn*, in the year 994.

* Warrington's History of Wales, Vol. II. p. 137.

† The place has long formed a ruinous heap, for *Leland* describes it as in a dilapidated state. "There is yet a peca of a tour, where *Owen Gough* brother to *Lluelen*, first prince, was yn prison." Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 45.

agger of loose stones, once a British fortification, still called *Caer Cwm y Glô*,

Half a mile south of the castle, at the termination of a deep glen, is a tremendous cataract, or waterfall, denominated *Cau-nant mawr*. The ledge of rock is more than sixty feet in height. A mountain torrent, from Cwm Brwynog, rushes through a cleft in the superincumbent rock; and after issuing in a straight line for a few yards, it suddenly takes a slaunting direction, and over a broad portion of the strata, rolls its waters with thundering noise into the vale below.

This valley, which for centuries witnessed the most sanguinary scenes, is now become a theatre for the display of the arts, arising from more pacific times; and the wealth and comforts obtainable by applying human energies to subjects of science and utility, instead of rapine, plunder, and devastation. On the declivity of the mountain, on the eastern side of the lakes, denominated *Allt Dû*, or the dark cliff, is a large slate quarry, the property of Thomas Asheton Smith, Esq., situated high among the rocks: and the mode of conveying the slates down the almost precipitous descent, to the margin of the lake, is singularly awkward, and apparently very dangerous. The carts, each carrying about one ton of slates in winter, and two in summer, was drawn down a serpentine path by one horse in front, and one hooked on behind, to counteract the rapidity of motion, which otherwise would endanger the whole. A better method has, however, lately been adopted, by substituting a loaded sledge at the tail of the cart. And a still farther improvement, would be an inclined plane, with a proper apparatus attached.

The slates having been thus delivered on the margin of the lake, are carried in boats down to the end of the lower one, where other carts are in readiness to convey them to Caernarvon, whence they are shipped to Ireland, and coastwise to various parts of Great Britain. In the former case they are exempt from all impost; in the latter they pay a duty of about

thirty-four shillings per ton, or the thousand.* Slates of a general size, are charged both for tax and freightage by tale; but those of larger dimensions, as duchesses, countesses, &c. by the ton. These therefore are edged and weighed on the quay, in moveable wooden steelyards, previous to their being put on board the respective vessels.

The whole of the slates from Allt-du-quarry, are not sent to the port of Caernarvon; considerable quantities are taken on board at a small creek, opposite Moel y don ferry, down to which a new road for the purpose, has lately been opened from the quarry, over the mountains.

On the western side of the lakes, is another slate quarry called *Cefn dû*, worked by a company of gentlemen, resident at Caernarvon.

The slate strata, forming the secondary mountains in the Snowdonian range, run in a direction from north-east to south-west; but those in the former line, are finer both in colour and quality. The quarries at *Cilgywn*, in the parish of Llanllyfni, are rather coarse in the grain, and of a strong red colour; those of Llandegai are exceedingly smooth, and of a brilliant blue or slate grey; and the produce of Llanberis, are of an intermediate quality, and generally assume a reddish purple hue.

This interesting, as well as picturesque little valley, can boast of its mineral treasures. A valuable *copper* mine is situated on the side of the upper lake, about half a mile from the village. Several horizontal galleries, or levels, have been driven into the side of the mountain, which is composed chiefly of hard whinstone, and horn blende schistus. The ore, found
in

* Slates and stone carried by coasting navigation from any part of Great Britain* are subjected to a duty of twenty per cent on the value, payable at the port of delivery. Thus it operates both on the material and the carriage. This duty, which amounts, on an average, to one-third the first cost of the article, with the price of freight, has tended greatly to throw a damp on the trade; and, were it not for the frequent evasions, would be still more injurious.

* 24 George III, c. 51.

in a matrix of quartz, is a rich sulphate of copper, of a fine yellow colour. The principal level is about two hundred yards in length, seven or eight feet high, and six wide. At the termination of this is an immense lofty cavern, whence ore has formerly been removed. In this a shaft, nearly sixty-feet, is sunk to a metallic bed; and near the bottom another fifty-feet in depth extends to one below. On the side of the principal cavern is a large one, apparently exhausted, or what is termed worked out. The ore, procured by blasting the rock, is conveyed along the level in small waggons, by a railroad, to the mouth of the mine; where women and children are employed, in breaking the lumps with hammers, and separating them into two sorts, viz. the richer, which is immediately carried down the lake in boats, and shipped for the founderies near Swansea; and the poorer kind that undergoes a previous process: this is taken to a *stamping mill*, where it is reduced to powder by means of six oaken beams, shod at bottom with iron; these placed vertically side by side, within a gauge in a large trough, are made to rise up and down for pulverising the fragments of ore, by the power of a large water wheel. This powder is carried by artificial streams into several reservoirs, where after repeated decantations, it becomes sufficiently separated from heterogeneous matters; and is then packed in bags for the use of the smelting-houses. Some of the ore has lately been roasted here, and a few pits formed for making ziment copper, like those already described in the vicinity of Parys mountain, in the island of Anglesea. The ore obtained is in general, what is called rich, on an average worth from twenty to twenty-five pounds per ton. But the value consequently varies with the price of copper.

This mineral enterprise was first “undertaken, about A. D. 1763 or 4; and though a vast quantity of copper ore was found, yet it fell infinitely short of rewarding the adventurers.”* The mining, after having been discontinued for some years, was resumed by a company of gentlemen from Macclesfield;

2 E 4

field;

* Williams's Observations, p. 64.

field ; but at present the concern is in the hands of Mr. Thomas Wright of Namptwich. Belonging to the same leasehold proprietor, is another mine, lately discovered, almost at the summit of Snowdon. It is upon the ridge called *Clogwyn y Arddwy*, notable from the time of Ray for rare and curious plants ; and affords a very curious geological fact. At these, the men work alternately, that is, the summer half year, they attend to the mountain mine ; and in winter, to the one, situate in the vale.

LLAN RUG and LLANDEINIOLEN, parishes comprise a flat, but not champagne country, between the base of the mountains and the Menai. The view in the retrospect of the lakes, and the inclosing mountainous scenery forms a striking contrast to the broad expanse, which now opens to the view of the astonished beholder. Thus emphatically and picturesquely described by a very observant traveller. “In the course of our descent,” says Mr. Aikin, “speaking of a progress through Nantberis, where the rocks ended, we arrived at a plain of considerable dimensions, so covered with large rounded fragments of rock, as to resemble the plains, where Joye is fabled to have overwhelmed the giants with a shower of stones. To a mineralogist, or rather a geologist it is very interesting ; *the rounded form of the stones*, which were of the same kind as those which compose the various rocks of Snowdon and its vicinity, naturally suggests the idea of the agency of water ; especially as the descent is inwards towards the sea, and the plain itself not more than four or five miles distant : the size alone of the stone forbids the supposition of their having been carried to their present situation by man, and they are too far off from the mountains, to have rolled down into the plain, where they now lie. Further, the soil of the plain is like other alluvial soil, namely, gravel, and sand, or shingle.”*

The antiquary will here find the remains of several fortified posts, constructed at an early period ; of which *Dinas Dinord-
dwy,*

* Aikin's Journal of a Tour, &c. p. 122.

ddwig, is the principal. It is situated about half a mile south-east of the church of *Llandeiniolen*. An extensive area is surrounded by two ramparts of loose stones; which are again backed by two valla formed of earth, and two very deep fossa. A circular stone building within was probably the seat of the commandant; and has much the appearance of a *prætorium*. Mr. Pennant supposes this to have been a British post; but there are circumstantial reasons for supposing it, if not originally erected by the Romans, to have been occupied by that people. It lies between two of their chief stations, in this part of Britain, *Segontium* and *Conovium*; and the vestiges of paved roads after the Roman manner, corroborate the conjecture.

Llys Dinorddwig, in ruins, is said to have been a palace belonging to the last Northwallian sovereign, *Llewelyn ap Gryffydd*.

To the east of the church, in which are several ancient and large yew trees, one twenty-seven feet in girth, is a holy well, called *Efynon Cegin Arthur*, or Arthur's kitchen water. This spring forms the source of the rivulet *Cegin*, which delivers its waters to the *Menai*, between *Bangor* and *Penrhyn*. The qualities of the water are salutiferous, for it is a strong chalybeate: and therefore without the aid of a miracle, or the influence of superstition, it has doubtless been efficacious in numerous cases, arising from debility.

VAENOL HOUSE, delightfully situated in a noble grove of oaks, between *Caernarvon* and *Bangor*, is the residence of *Thomas Asheton Smith, esq.* It is a handsome modern structure, but so embosomed with trees, that it is only visible at one point of the road. The principal front is seen to most advantage from the *Menai*, whence the extensive sloping lawn, in the fore, and the dense woods in the back ground, contrasted with the maritime prospect, produce a most delightful effect.

Near *Vaenol* is a serpentine ravine, of rather more than a mile, extending in a direction from the sea to the mountains, called *Nant y Garth*. This was the valley, that afforded so

much mirth to the Welsh crusaders, archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus de Barri, who traversed Cambria in the year 1118, preaching up with ardent zeal the service of the cross;* in which sacred service the former fell a sacrifice; having honourably and religiously ended his days in the holy land.

On their progress from Bardsey Island, through this county, the narrator of the journey proceeds thus to state: “the archbishop having by his sermon the next day, induced many persons to take the cross, we proceeded towards Bangor, passing through Caernarvon, that is, the castle of Arvon; it is called Arvon, the province opposite to Môn, because it is so situated with respect to the island of Mona. Our road leading us to a steep valley,† with many broken ascents and descents, we dismounted from our horses, and proceeded on foot, rehearsing, as it were by agreement, some experiments of our intended pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Having traversed the valley, and reached the opposite side with considerable fatigue, the archbishop, to rest himself and recover his breath, sat down on an oak which had been torn up by the violence of the winds; and relaxing into a pleasantry, highly laudable in a person of his approved gravity, thus addressed his attendants: ‘who amongst you, in this company, can now delight our wearied ears by whistling? which is not easily done by people out of breath.

On

* As their discourses were entirely delivered in Latin, the effect produced on the audience must have arisen more from the reverence, superstition pays to pompous assumption, or impertinent folly, than from the convincing nature of logical disquisition, or the persuasive blandishments of imposing eloquence.

† I searched in vain for a valley which would answer the description here given by Giraldus, and the scene of so much pleasantry to the crusaders; for neither do the old or new road from Caernarvon to Bangor, in any way correspond; but I have since been informed, that there is a valley called Nant y Garth (near the residence of Asheton Smith, Esq. at Vaenol,) which terminates at about half a mile’s distance from the Menai, and therefore not observable from the road; it is a serpentine ravine of more than a mile, in a direction towards the mountains, and probably that which the crusaders passed on their journey to Bangor.

On affirming that he could if he thought fit, the sweet notes are heard in an adjoining wood, of a bird, which some call a wood-pecker; and others, with great propriety, an aureolus. The wood-pecker is called in French, *pic*, and with its strong bill, perforates oak trees; the other bird is called an aureolus, from the golden tints of its feathers; and at certain seasons utters a sweet whistling note, instead of a song.* Some persons having remarked that the nightingale was never heard in this country, the archbishop, with a significant smile, replied, ‘the nightingale followed wise counsel, and never came into Wales; but we, unwise counsel, who have penetrated and gone through it.’ We remained that night at Bangor, the metropolitan see of North Wales, and were well entertained by the bishop of the diocese.† On the next day, mass being celebrated by the archbishop before the high altar, the bishop of that see, at the instance of the archbishop and other persons, more importunate than persuasive, was compelled to take the cross, to the general concern of all his people, who expressed their grief on this occasion, by loud and lamentable vociferations.”‡

BANGOR,

A CITY which derives its name, from *Ban* superior, and *Côr* a society, that is *the chief choir*,§ received the additional appellation

* I have not been able to ascertain the bird here alluded to by our author, under the title of aureolus. *Aureolus Galbula*. E.

† Guianus, or Guy Ruffius, dean of Waltham in Essex, and consecrated to this see, at Ambresbury, Wilts, in May, 1177. In the year 1188, he attended Baldwin in his progress through Wales, and died about two years afterwards.

‡ Hoare’s *Giraldus*, Vol. II. p. 84.

§ On the first establishment of Christianity in Britain, the particular assemblies of people for the purpose of divine worship, were designated by the appellation *côr*, a circle, society, or class. These *Coran* afterwards received the name of their respective evangelical instructors, as *cor Cybi*, *cor Illtud*, *cor Deinial*, &c, &c, when any one of these were invested with paramount authority,

pellation of *vawr* great, to distinguish it from Bangor *Iscoed*, in the county of Flint. This place, if reliance may be placed on historic records, has a claim to high antiquity. Leland, from the Chronicle of John Harding, states, that Condage, a British prince, erected here a temple, and dedicated it to *Minerva*.* Though no notice of Bangor appears in the Itineraries, yet a grit stone, three feet four inches long, by eighteen inches broad, bearing the following Roman inscription was discovered at Tycoch, two miles distant :

N-V M.N C-
IMP- CAESAR - M.
AVREL - ANTONINVS
PIVS P IX - AVC - ARAB.

No certain account, however, occurs, till the year 525. When *Daniel* or *Deiniol*, son of Dinawd, abbot of Bangor-Iscoed, founded here a MONASTERY, and made the place a cell to the prior institution.

In this place, the historian Cressy, says, that “Malgo Conan, not long after built a city, which for the beauty of its situation, he called Bancôr.” It was here that this prince, better known under the name of *Maelgwyn Gwynedd*, A. D. 552, struck with remorse for the numerous crimes of his past life, resolved to devote his future days to the austerities of a cloister; but quickly relinquished the design, re-assumed the affairs of government, and returned to his former criminal habits; contenting himself with converting the conventual church into a cathedral: and like those gentry, which Swift humourously describes, as “growing wondrously virtuous in their old age, make a sacrifice to God, of the devil’s leavings;” bestowing by a posthumous bequest, a few lands and franchises on the members of the chapter.†

A CASTLE,

authority, over certain others, it assumed the distinctive name of *Ban-cor*, or the supreme society.

* Collectanea, Vol. III. p. 425.

† Warrington’s Hist. of Wales, Vol. I, p. 120.

A CASTLE, was erected here, in the reign of William Rufus, by the celebrated warrior, *Hugh, earl of Chester*. with a view of carrying on with greater security, and prospect of success, his marauding designs against the island of Anglesea. This fortress, which has been generally overlooked, stood upon a precipitous hill, about a quarter of a mile distant on the east of the present city, between it and the Menai. The foundations of three sides are still traceable, extending on the south-east side, one hundred and twenty yards; on the south-west, sixty-six; on the north-east, forty; and the fourth was so naturally strong, as to render any artificial defence, intirely unnecessary; when it was demolished is not known; probably, as soon as the earl had effected, or rather abandoned, his design.

THE DIOCESE of Bangor arose out of the monastic institution, and owed its constitution, and endowment, as previously noticed, to the most profligate of the Northwallian sovereigns, *Maelgwyn Gwynedd*, who constituted *Dciniol* its first bishop.* The most concise biographical sketch of the numerous successors to the see, would require a volume; and to furnish a mere list of names, would be incompatible with the nature of the present work.

What the original extent was, does not appear upon record. The present jurisdiction comprises the whole of Anglesea, with Caernarvonshire, except the parishes of Llysfaen, Eglwys Rhôs and Llangystenin, which belong to St. Asaph; and Llanbebblic annexed to the see of Chester; more than a moiety of Merionethshire; fourteen parishes in Denbighshire; and seven in the county of Montgomery.

FOR ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT it is divided into three archdeaconries, viz. Bangor, Anglesea, and Merioneth; and ten rural deaneries. From two of the archdeaconries being usually held in commendam by the bishop, Merioneth is the only one, in which officialities occur. This includes only fourteen parishes, and the archdeacon appears to possess no further

* *Mona Antiqua*, p. 147.

ther powers, than “to visit and receive the annual procurations; he being obliged to return the *comperta* and *delecta* into the consistorial court.”*

By one computation the number of parishes amounts to one hundred and seven, and by another to one hundred and twelve; of which, thirty are impropriations. But exclusive of these may be added divers chapels, which will nearly double the number; for, according to Camden, they are what have been generally deemed parochial churches, seventy-four in Anglesea; and in Caernarvonshire, sixty-eight.

The *annual revenues* of the Bishopric, as valued in the king's books, amount to 131l. 16s. 3d. Those of the archdeaconry of Bangor to 48l. 6s. 3d.; and of Anglesea, 58l. 10s. 7½d.; forming an aggregate of 239l. 13s. 1½d. per annum. The prelate is a suffragan to the metropolitan see of Canterbury.

This diocese was very considerably benefited, by bishop *Anian*, who sate here in the reign of Edward the first. He being in high favour with the monarch, obtained various privileges and immunities; and, indeed, as the temporalities had been confiscated, in the time of Henry the third, what little now belongs to the bishopric, may be said to have been acquired by that prelate. He procured the grant of Bangor House in Shoe-lane, London; and in 1282, for the better support of the episcopal dignity, obtained, by letters patent, from the Crown, the return of writs, waifs, strays, &c. in his respective manors, and had the villages of Trefaynon, Abydon, and Bodychan annexed. And further in the year 1284, Edward, afterwards the second, being born in the Castle of Caernarvon, the bishop had the honour of baptizing that prince, for the administration of which sacrament, he received a grant of the ferries, Porthaethwy and Cadnant; and the manors of Bangor, Castell-mawr, Garthgogs, in the county of Caernarvon, with Cantred and Treffos, in the Isle of Anglesea. Two years afterwards he had a confirmation to himself and successors of a tertiarian

* Willis's Survey of the Cathedral Church of Bangor, p. 52.

tiarian portion of the tithes, issuing out of the king's demesnes, mills, and lead mines in England and Wales.* And having had a survey made of tenures belonging to the diocese, he caused the same to be registered in the extent book. The revenues of the bishopric are principally derived from impropriations and commendams; the prelate holding, exclusively of the archdeaconries of Anglesea and Bangor, the sinecure rectory of Llanrhaiader, in the county of Denbigh; do. Llandyfnam in the Island of Anglesea; and do. Llanynys, annexed by act of parliament to the see in lieu of *mortuaries*.† By an ancient custom a mortuary, or *corfe present*, was payable to the bishop of this diocese on the death of every clergyman. That was, his best horse or mare, gown, cloak or signet, ring, &c. This was abolished, and the above preferment voted, as a compensation, in the reign of queen Anne.‡ Besides these sources the bishop is entitled to several chief rents, arising out of divers manors, viz. Edern and Gogarth in Caernarvonshire, Llanelidan in the county of Denbigh, with Llanddwyn and Trefos in Anglesea; the latter constitutes the *barony* which entitles him to a seat in the house of Peers. He possesses also the patronage of all the livings except fourteen.

THE CHAPTER consists of twelve dignitaries.

1. The dean.

2. The

* Rotula Walliæ de annis 12, 14, and 15. Edwardi prim.

† These were a kind of ecclesiastical *heriots*, or customary gifts, afterwards claimed, and allowed as a debt in law, by the minister, on the death of any of his parishioners; as a sort of expiation and amends to the clergy for the personal tithes and other ecclesiastical dues, which the laity in their life-time might have forgotten, or neglected to pay. For this purpose, after the Lord's heriot, or best chattel was taken out, the second best was reserved to the church, as a mortuary. Anciently it was called *Saulesceat*, which signifies pecunia sepulchralis, or symbolum animæ. Subsequent to the conquest it received the denomination of *cors-present*, because the mortuary-beast was presented with the body of the deceased, at the funeral. See more on this subject in Dugdale's learned History of Antiquities of Warwickshire, p. 679.

‡ 12 Ann. St. 2, c. 6.

2. The bishop, as archdeacon of Bangor.
3. The bishop, as archdeacon of Anglesea.
4. The archdeacon of Merioneth.
5. The prebendary of Llanfair.
6. The prebendary of Penmynydd.
7. The treasurer.
8. The chancellor.
9. The precentor.
10. Canonicus primus.
11. Canonicus secundus.
12. Canonicus tertius.

Of these, five appointments, viz. Numbers 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, are unendowed, being only titular, and therefore termed *Nihil prebends*; but these probably in the era of popery, had considerable emoluments; arising from the corrodies, pensions, or oblations. Two vicars choral, perform the service of the choir, besides which are four lay singing men, four choiristers, and ten children, who wear surplices, assist in chanting, and receive out of a legacy, left by Dr. Glynn, two pounds per annum. Previous to the reformation, and for about a century afterwards, there was another description of ministers attached to this cathedral, denominated *Conducts*, who read divine service, as the vicars do at present, and received their maintenance by offerings, voluntary contributions, or in some similar manner.

THE CATHEDRAL of Bangor has several times been demolished by the political rage of the contending parties, which at different periods spread devastation and dismay over this part of Britain. In the year 1071 it was destroyed by the Normans.* When king John invaded Wales, A. D. 1210, he seized the bishop, Robert of Shrewsbury, before the high altar, and compelled him to pay for his liberation a fine of two hundred

* Mr. Pennaut says this year, "the cathedral was destroyed by the insurgent Saxons," when the Norman dynasty commenced, in 1066. An error that has escaped the notice of the editor of the new edition of "Tours in Wales."

dreð *hauks*.* It suffered again during the reigns of Henry the third and fourth. But in the year 1402 it was laid in ruins by the army of insurgents, under Owen Glyndwr; in which dilapidated state it remained for the space of ninety years: when bishop *Dean* or *Denny* rebuilt the choir: and on his translation to the see of Salisbury, left his crozier and mitre, of very considerable value, to his successor at Bangor, on condition he would engage to complete the part of the building already begun.† The body and steeple were erected in the year 1532 by the liberality of bishop *Pace* or *Skeffington*, as appears by the following inscription on the tower:

“ THOMAS SKIFFINGTON EPISCOPUS BANGORENSIS, HOC CAMPANILE ET HANC ECCLESIAM FIERI FECIT, ANNO PARTUS VIRGINIS MCCCCCXXXII.”

This campanile he furnished with three bells, and by will provided another.

While speaking of this great benefactor, it is but justice to the memory of an injured character, and respect due to a family, deservedly considered liberal, as well as dignified, to endeavour to rescue from unmerited obloquy, the name of *Dr. Arthur Bulkeley*, who was confirmed bishop of this see in the year 1541. Godwin, in his elaborate treatise, entitled “*De Presulibus*,” by some unlucky moment of illiberality, admitted an anecdote into that very valuable work, which should, without more solid proof, have been discarded with historic indignation. And as rumour is fabled to be much fleetier than verity, this has been handed down, as a nefarious transaction to the present day. Almost every tourist has considered the stain upon the bishop’s conduct a kind of embellishment; and the error has met with gratuitous propagation. Here, may this falsification meet an eternal barrier. “Bishop Bulkeley having sacrilegiously sold away five bells out of the steeple of his cathedral, and going to see them shipped off, he was in his

2 F

return

* Godwinus De Presulibus.

† Willis’s Bangor, p. 95.

return homewards struck with blindness, insomuch that he never saw afterwards.”* Had the retaliative judgment been omitted, the misrepresentation would have been much more likely to have obtained general credit. But the extraordinary part of the story naturally stimulates the mind to inquiry. Now at Bangor there exists not the smallest tradition, that the said prelate was ever blind, and there are in the records, respecting the diocese, many entries in his own hand-writing, such as articles of enquiry at visitation, charges, &c. &c. receipts written just before his death, which happened in March 14, 1552, in so regular a manner, that must make a person not intellectually dark, smile at the idea of a man deprived of the blessing of sight, making transcripts in such an uniform manner. It is true, that he disposed of several things, with the consent of the dean and chapter, which were the property of the church. For in his will he acknowledges, that he had in his custody a certain sum of money, arising from goods sold, belonging to the cathedral, and that agreeable to the advice of Dr. William Glynn and other canons, he fully repaid the same; and an additional sum in the reparation of the church, and in the liquidation of debts incurred by prosecuting lawsuits with great lay impropiators; who had, during the sitting of his predecessor, contrived to alienate several benefices from the patronage of the see.

Last Will and Testament of Bishop Bulkeley, 1552. Testamentum Arthuri Bulkeley Episcopi Bangor, 1552.

In Nomine Sanctæ & Individuæ Trinitatis Patris, & Filii, & Spiritus Sancti, Amen. Ego Arthuris Bulkeley permissione divina Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Sancti Danielis Bangor humilis Minister,

* Willis in his History of Bangor Cathedral, p. 102, shrewdly remarks, after mentioning this improbable story. But what grounds there are for it I know not; for as the steeple was so newly finished, I can scarce believe it furnished with so many bells thus early: for the most bishop Skeffington had provided were *three*; and though he directed his executors to add a fourth, we may suppose, as they were negligent in performing other bequests, (as Godwin charges them,) they might be so in this also.

Minister, animi & corporis firma sanitate & valetudine constitutus, condo & compono meum Testamentum seu ultimam voluntatem in hunc qui sequitur modum. Imprimis lego & commendo spiritum & animam meam Deo Patri omnipotenti, & omnibus Sanctis & Electis, ac Ecclesiæ Triumphanti, ut spiritus & anima mea mundo intelligibili & Angelico in Deo & beatis mentibus cum cœtu Angelorum & Animarum piarum in æternum & ultra sumantur. Corpus vero hoc terrestre tumulandum in Choro Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Bangor, in illo loco ubi cor bonæ memoriæ Thomæ Skevyngton Predecessoris mei sepelitur.

Item. I give and bequeth to my Successor all the Hangings in the painted Chamber, all the Hangings in the great Dining-Room, two Cupboards standing in the same Chamber, all the Hangings in the great Chamber next to my Bed-chamber, all the Hangings in my Bed-chamber: All the Utensils in the Kitchen, as well such Utensils or Vessels which I found there upon my first coming to this See, as well as such of the Utensils and other Kitchin Stuff which I brought, &c. to this House. Also I give and bequeth to my said Successor three fytherbeds, the one now with John Phillip, the other wheron Thomas Meythe lyeth, the third upon my own bed, also the Bed Case and Curtins in mine own Bed-chamber, the Bed Case without Curtins in the next Chamber to my Bed-chamber, and the Bed Case without Curtins or Testern in the painted Chamber. *Item.* I bequeth to the use of my Brethren, the Dean and Chapter, towards the Furniture of the Library in the said Cathedral Church these Books following: viz. Six Volumes of Lives, viii Volumes of Dyonissius upon the Old and New Testament, all Hierom, and Seynt Thomas upon the Sevend in two Volumes. Also I bequeth all the said Books to the Use aforesaid, to be delivered when the said Library be erected and set up, and not before. *Item.* I bequeth to Mr. Thomas Bulkeley all the Paraphrase of Erasmus in Latin, in several small Volumes, which are noted with my own Hand; also I bequeth to the said Mr. Bulkeley the Old and New Testament comprised

in five small Volumes, which I bought at my last being in London for private Use of Service. *Item.* I bequeth to the use of the Cathedral Church my two English Bibles, and the great Latyn Bible of Stephanus, Colmen's Prynt; the one of the English Bibles, and the Latyn Bible to remain in the Quire, and the other English Bible to be fixed with a Chain in some Part of the Cross Ile. *Item.* I bequeth to Mr. Robert Evans, Dean of Bangor, Josephus de Antiquitatibus & Bello Judaismo. *Item.* I bequeth to Mr. Doctor Thomas Davies Quadruplex Psalterium, & Prophelmus super Psalmos. *Item.* I bequeth to Mr. Roberts, Archdeacon of Merioneth Johannes de Turre Cremat in three Vols. *Item.* I bequeth to the said Dean, Ruthmund super Evangelica, Epistolas Pauli, & super Psalmos. *Item.* I bequeth to Sir Richard Bulkeley Knight, a Colt which I bought in Arverstley, now being two years old; and a Gold Ring amel'd, having in it the Arms of Christ. *Item.* I bequeth to my Lady Bulkeley a quishion checker velvet red and green. *Item.* I bequeth to Elizabeth Fletcher a fether bed covering and two fustyan blankets which are in the painted Chamber, and the Testern of the bed which is also in the same Chamber. Also I bequeth to the said Elizabeth the little Goblet of silver with the Cover, and also 6 Silver Spoons. *Item.* I give and bequeth to Thomas Birckdall the Paraphrase of Erasmus upon the Gospels. *Item.* I bequeth to his Wife two yards of Holland Cloth, after viiid per Yard. *Item.* I do declare and testify by this my last Will and Testament, that whereas I had a certain Sum of Money in my Custody of the Cathedral Church Goods, that by the advice of Dr William Glynn, and other the Canons there, I did fully bestow the same Money and much more upon the Roofe and Leads of the South side of the Church, which before was ready to fall, the reparation whereof did cost forty-two Pounds. *Item.* My Lord Archbishop of Canterbury hath a specialty of me, whereby I am indebted to his Grace in the Sum of twenty Pounds, whereof I have paid Xl. and therefore have an acquittance, and beseech his Grace to forgive me and my Executors the Residue, in respect I have incurred
notable

notable Debts in Defence of this poor Church. *Item.* His Grace so remitting the said Debts I will that my Executors shall pay to the Gentlemen of his Grace's Chamber fourty shillings for a Reward. *Item.* I do give and bequeth to Sir Humphery Byckdall, Faber upon the Gospels and the Epistles. *Item.* All the Residue of all and singular my Goods, Chattels, and Credits, moveable and immoveable, the King's Majesty's Money first deducted and paid, I do freely give and bequeth to my Nephew Richard Fletcher and Grace his Wife. *Item.* I do order, make, and constitute the said Richard Fletcher and Hugh Goodman my true and lawful Executors. *Item.* I will that the said Hugh Goodman shall have Part of my said Goods, Chattels, and Credits, after my Debts payd, according as the sayd Richard Fletcher and he shall agree, for his paynes and travaile to be susteyned about the accomplishment of this Testament. *Item.* I do declare that I have in Gold and Silver in my House at this present Time the sum of one hundred and thirty Pounds, towards Payment of the King's Majesty's Tenths, as well for Anno Quinto as Anno Sexto Regni Dom. nostr. Regis nunc. and more ready money I have not.

Item. I bequeth to Sir David Moythe, Tytelman upon the Epistles of St. Paul. *Item.* I bequeth to Sir Geffery Lewis the Paraphrase of Erasmus in English upon the Epistles. *Item.* I bequeth to Hugh Goodman a Silver Goblet Parcell gilt, a little turned Cup of Silver, and a little Salt of Silver guilt. *Item.* I bequeth to Hugh Thomas my Servant the Gelding which I had of Mathew Coche, and xls. in Money. *Item.* I bequeth to my Nephew Henry Eton iiii*l.* to be payd to him of the Money which shall be made of my Books.

In witness of this my present Testament, I have to the same set my Hand and Seal, the tenth Day of March, in the Year of our Lord God after the course and computation of the Church of England, a Thousand five hundred and fifty two, in the seventh Year of the Reigne of our most dread Sovereigne Lord Edward the 6th by the Grace of God King of England, France,

and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in the Earth of the Church of England and Ireland the supreme Head.

per me, A. BANGOR.

Before these Witnesses subscribed Anno Conservationis duodecimo.

Richard Fletcher, N. P.

David Joytgen, Clerk.

Humphrey Birckdall, Clerk.

Jeffery Lewys, Clerk.*

The present cathedral is situated in a large yard, surrounded by a wall, on one side of which is an avenue of trees, forming in summer a pleasant promenade. The building comprises a choir, nave, transept, two ailes, and a quadrangular tower at the west end, which, but for the premature death of the founder, would have been raised agreeable to the original design, to double the present height. The choir, transept, and tower have an embattled parapet, and the latter is surmounted by a crocketed pinnacle at each angle. The windows of the nave, transept, and chancel are in the pointed style; those of the clerestry have semicircular heads. The structure assumes a neat regular appearance; but the uniformity of its plan is miserably marred by rooms having been added on the north side, for the purposes of a consistorial court, chapter house, and library. "The dimensions of the church on the outside, are as follow: From the west corner of the steeple to the west end of the aile twenty-three feet, thence to the next buttress twenty-one feet; to the next buttress ten feet six inches: in the distance between these two buttresses is a door ten feet high, which takes up the greatest part of that space. From the second buttress to the cross aile is eighty-two feet six inches. The two buttresses on each side are not included in this mensuration, though the others are. The windows in the side ailes are in height, eleven feet to the top, and their breadth is

* Willis's Survey, &c. p. 256.

is five feet nine inches. The cross aisle is thirty-two feet six inches broad. From the cross aisle to the east end of the choir is fifty-five feet. The height of the nave from the top of the moulding to the leads of the side aisle is ten feet six inches. From the top of the side or lower aisles to the ground is twenty-two feet, nine inches. From the top of the battlements at the corner of the cross aisle to the ground is thirty-three feet six inches. The height of the choir is the same. The steeple or tower from the top of the battlements to the ground, including the pinnacles is about double the height of the church, that being sixty-one feet, and the pinnacles seven feet and an half.*

The dimensions are thus more compactly stated in a popular architectural work.

	Feet
Length, of Cathedral, from east to west.....	214
—— of tower at the west end.....	19
—— of nave or body.....	141
—— of the choir which extends entirely to the east end and begins beyond the cross isle.....	63
—— of the cross isles from north to south.....	96
Breadth of the body and side isles.....	60
Height of the body to the top of the roof.....	34
—— of the tower.....	60
Square of the tower.....	†24

According to the custom of the times the windows were decorated with painted glass by the piety of different persons, among whom, from the arms, appear the *Gryffydds of Penrhyn* and *Dean Kyffin*, who founded and endowed a chantry in the south cross aisle for the posthumous benefit of his soul. But many of these suffered much from fanatic rage, during the civil war in the reign of Charles the first, and from inattention to the re-

2 F 4

pairs

* Willis's Bangor, p. 20.

† Essays on Gothic Architecture p. 138. An ichnography, and drawing of this cathedral were engraved by Harris to accompany Willis's Survey, and one on a larger scale by Buck.

pairs necessary by the incidents of time. The east window at the end of the choir, which reaches from the top of the screen to the ceiling of the roof, is about twenty-seven feet high by thirteen and a half broad. In this are figures representing saints and prelates robed and mitred. Among the former are those of *St. Ambrose and Augustine*; among the latter, Bishops *Dean*, and *Skeffington*; but they are so mutilated as only to be discoverable by the aid of historic document. More figures are discernible in the window near the episcopal throne, and in the two small windows over the stalls. Lately the windows of the nave and ailes have been partially decorated with modern stained glass in the upper compartments, by voluntary contribution; and it is intended, when the fund is adequate, to complete the whole series. The nave is separated from the ailes by six flat-pointed arches, resting on octangular fluted columns; having plain annular capitals, and broad square plinths. The church contains few *sepulchral monuments*, interesting either in a sculptorial, or an elegiac view. In a shrine, on the left side of the high altar, history records the interment of the valiant, and prudent prince *Gryffydd ap Cynan* A. D. 1137; but no vestige of the tomb remains. Beneath an arch, in the south end of the transept on a sarcophagus ornamented with a cross fleury, is the effigy in stone, of *Owen Gwynedd*, king of North Wales, who died, feared by his enemies, and regretted by his friends, in the year 1161. Several of the prelates lie buried here. Two alabaster busts, or half length effigies of bishops *Vaughan* and *Rowlands*, were decapitated by the fanatics during the rebellion. The following inscription on a black marble slab records their conjoint memories.

“ *Piæ Memorix duorum Episcoporum in hac ecclesia proxime succedentium, qui fuerunt contigue nati, coetanei, sibi invicem cari condiscipuli, consanguinei; ex illustri familia VAUGHANORUM de Talhenbont in Evionith; prior, filius THOMÆ AP ROBERT VACHAN generosi de Niffryn in Llyn, Qui sedem hanc per biennium tenuit, deinde Cestrensem per septem annos; postea Londinensem per triennium tenuit, ubi vitam mensis Martii*

Martii ultimo An. Dom. 1607 immatura morte commutavit: cujus virtus post funeros vivit. Posterior, HENRICUS, filius ROLANDI AP ROBERT ARMIGERI de Melteyrn in Llyn, ex Elizabetia filia Griffini ap Robert Vachan, armigeri de Talhenbout, qui annum consecrationis suæ jam aget decimum octavum, multasque agat feliciter ad honorem dei et Evangelii propagationem. Mutuo amore alter utrique hoc struxit monumentum mense Maii, Anno Dom. 1616.

Orimur, vicissim morimur
Qui non precesserunt sequuntur.',

On the south side of the choir, is a large handsome mural monument of white marble, surmounted by an urn, and decorated with several escutcheons, charged with family arms. The tablet is divided into two compartments. The one commemorative of *Bishop Morgan*; and the other of his daughter *Elizabeth*. He died September 1673, and she in August 1682. The inscription states, the pious memorial was erected by the parental affection of *Bishop Humphreys* for his beloved daughter *Anne*, by his wife the aforesaid *Elizabeth*, who departed this mortal life in January 1699. A stone with an escutcheon charged with *three Boars heads in pale, with a stag trippant*, bears this inscription.

H S E

“ GULIELMUS WYNNE A. M. Roberti Wynne de Garthewyn, com. Denbigh, filius natu minimus: Coll. Jesu apud Oxon socius, Johanni episcopo Bangoriens. a sacris, vir amicis desideratissimus, quem ob immaturam mortem lugebat, cujus illustraverat Antiquitates patria: obiit anno salutis, 1704 atatis 34.

The person here commemorated is said to have been the learned historian, who edited a valuable history of Wales. The materials were first collected by Caradoc Llancarvan, a monk who flourished in the twelfth century. These consist of docu-

ments

ments from A. D. 686 in a continued series, down to his own time; which were further extended to the death of the last Llewelyn; and the whole translated into English by Humphrey Lloyd, gent. in the reign of Henry the Eighth. But the publication was delayed by his premature death. In the time of Elizabeth Dr. David Powell, having collected whatever he considered elucidatory of the subject from the English historians, and added it under the denomination of Annotations, published Mr. Lloyd's translation in the year 1584. Mr. Wynne from the notes of the able antiquary Vaughan of Hengwrt, and other coadjutative documents, made numerous useful additions and by incorporating the annotations with the text, greatly improved the whole performance.

In the library is a curious manuscript, intituled "LIBER PONTIFICALIS DNI ANNIANI BANGOR EPISCOPI." This *Pontifical*, or Book of Bangor, is a moderate sized folio, containing a missale, which includes, besides the Rubric, thirty-two offices, together with numerous anthems, set to music for the use of the church, and diocese; and appears to have been drawn up by bishop Anian, with the consent of the clergy, at a synod he convened in the year 1291. This is one of those *provincial diversities*, in the manner of conducting divine service, long the opprobrium of our national ecclesiastical establishment; and which is noticed, and prohibited in the prefatory order, printed before the Liturgy of the Anglican church; and forms part of the statute respecting uniformity of worship: "whereas heretofore there hath been great diversity in saying and singing in churches, within this realm, some following *Salisbury* use, some *Hereford* use, and some the use of *Bangor*, some of *York*, some of *Lincoln*; now from henceforth all the whole realm shall have but one use." This very curious relique was lost, during the troubles of Wales occasioned by Owen Glyndwr's rebellion in the reign of Edward the fourth; but was restored to the church by bishop Ednam, in the year 1485. In the civil wars it was again missing, and recovered by bishop Humphreys. Among other forms, occur those for *adjuring bread, cheese, honey, &c.* and

in the baptismal office, instead of *three* times immersion, as was then customary in honour of the Trinity, *two* only are expressly and strictly enjoined.

Near the entrance gates of the church-yard, formerly stood a building the use of which is now obsolete: a *Hem-house* or episcopal gaol. But this after the reformation became dilapidated, and has long been removed. At an early period a *parockial church*, dedicated to St. Mary, stood at a small distance from the cathedral. This denominated *Llanfair Garth Bran* is said to have been founded and endowed in the reign of Howel ap Jevaf, by Edgar the Saxon king of Mercia,* previous to his meeting by appointment at Chester, the eight suppliant monarchs, who rowed him triumphantly in his royal barge down the river Dee,† when this structure was demolished.

The MONASTERY for *Friars preachers* was founded by *Tudor ap Gronw*, lord of Penmynydd, in the county of Anglesea, so early as the year 1299: who was interred here in 1311. On the dissolution, it was granted by Edward the sixth, to Thomas Brown, and William Breton: and shortly after converted into a *Free-school* by *Jeffry Glynn*, who was an advocate of the court of Arches, and brother of bishop William Glynn. By his will, proved in 1557, he bequeathed the administration of his estate to his brother, and Maurice Gryffyth, bishop of Rochester. Both these dying, before they had adjusted the settlements, relative to the institution, its completion devolved upon Sir William Petre, and others, who finally with the concurrence of the diocesan, agreed upon the permanent rules and regulations, which are said to have been drawn up by Dr. Alexander Nowel, dean of St. Paul's.

The

* “Edgar rex fuadavit ecclesiam in honorem Beatæ Mariæ, et primas libertates eidem concessit, ut lapis in medio operis testatur, et eandem dotavit.” Ex Archivis Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Bangoriensis.

† These royal *watermen* were Kenneth, king of Scotland; Malcolm, king of Cumbria; Macon or Macchus, king of Man and the isles; with Howel, Jago, Sifrethius, Dyfnwal, and Ithel, five Cambrian princes. Wynne's Hist. of Wales p. 59, and Turner's Hist. of the Anglo Saxons, Vol. I. p. 399.

The present FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL which stands at a small distance from the city, is a neat modern brick structure, comprising a house for the master, with suitable apartments for the pupils, and transacting the scholastic business; a lawn in front affords a spacious theatre for juvenile recreations. The institution appears to be well conducted, and being in high repute, though the original endowment was not great,* yet the master and coadjutors obtain considerable emolument from the number of optional boarders.

The HOSPITAL or *Almshouse*,† owes its establishment to the munificence of *Henry Rowland*, bishop of this see; who by his last will and testament, dated July 1, 1616, bequeathed an estate in lands, towards the erecting and endowing an almshouse, for the accommodation of six poor, old, impotent single men, who were to receive respectively two shillings per week, and annually six yards of frieze for their clothing.

A PUBLIC DISPENSARY was instituted in the year 1809, by a voluntary subscription; denominated “The Caernarvonshire and Anglesey loyal Dispensary.” This, according to the statement of the committee, was determined on by “The gentlemen, assembled to celebrate the anniversary of his Majesty’s entrance into the fiftieth year of his reign; who anxious to evince some testimony of their affection and loyalty to their beloved sovereign, upon so joyous and glorious an occasion; and to give some permanent proof, that the auspicious day had not passed un-
noticed

* “The master’s perquisites or salary is about 60*l.* per annum, and the usher’s 35*l.* Willis’s Survey, &c. p. 48. But from the estates having been much improved, these since that period, are very considerably advanced.

The school stood almost in front of the cathedral; but was lately taken down, and rebuilt, in a neat stile, near the east side of the churchyard. By this an opening is made, affording, from the centre of the city, a very delightful prospect, over the Menai to Anglesea, including the town of Beaumaris, and the park of Baron-hill.

† An engraving of this view, with some portion of pictorial licence, a fanciful wooded fore-ground, shadowing the cathedral, is given in the second volume of Hoare’s *Giraldus*.

noticed; resolved to enter into a subscription for the purpose of establishing a Dispensary, where the poor shall be supplied with medicine, and have the aid of medical advice, *gratis*. The subscription book soon received a most respectable number of signatures, and the resolutions are now carried into effect. The building for this benevolent purpose, is a small neat structure on the side of the London road.

THE PALACE is situated in a flat, below the cathedral, where Mr. Pennant observed, "the prelate is indifferently lodged." It was almost entirely rebuilt by bishop Skeffington, who died in the year 1533. This episcopal residence was, however, much improved by the late right Rev. John Warren, while he held the See; and considerable alterations and additions are in contemplation, by the present prelate, Dr. Majendie.

BANGOR, situated in a narrow valley, between ridges of rock, having a fine opening towards the Menai, consists of one long street. The houses being in general well-built, and roofed with slate, assume a neat appearance. It at no time, within the last twenty years, deserved the stigma, cast upon it by an intelligent tourist.* And since, the place has by numerous re-edifications, and additional buildings, received very material improvement. It was anciently of much greater extent, and probably occupied the whole of the rising ground, between the present city, and Bangor ferry: for in ploughing, the foundations of buildings have been frequently discovered. The place has considerably again increased, within the last century, as will appear by a comparison of the following statements: "the parish of Bangor is of considerable extent, being in length from east to west five miles, and from north to south four miles: and contains in it the following *vills*, and number of houses, in each of them, respectively. 1. Bangor-town, wherein are 68 houses, besides the bishop's palace, deanery, and hospital. 2. The skirts of the town or town parcel, where are 30 houses. 3. Tyllvaen, where are 16 houses. 4. Brith-
der,

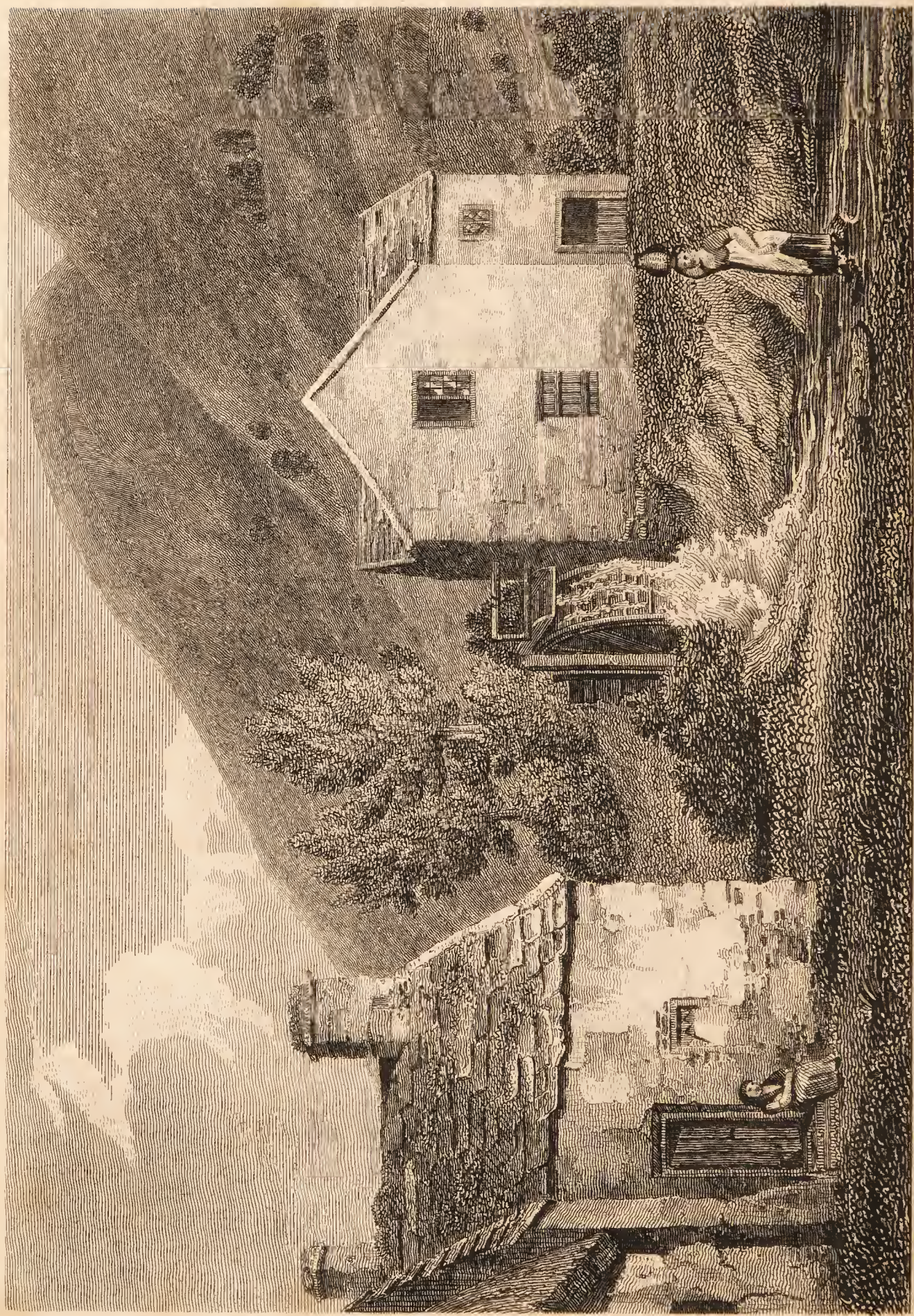
* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 167. But it should be recollected, things are great or little, magnificent or mean by comparison.

der, with 12 houses. 5. Caerwedog, where are 14 houses. 6. Treborth, where are 25 houses. 7. Vaenol, which has 6 houses. 8. Aber y Pwll, where are 15 houses. And lastly Pentir, (where is a chapel of ease in which one of the vicars-choral officiates every other sunday) containing 17 houses. In all 206 houses, which, allowing five to an house or family, makes the number of souls 1030.* By the returns made to government under the Population Act in 1801, it appears, the number of houses amounted to 304, and inhabitants to 1770; of whom 135 were returned as employed in various trades. A cheap and well supplied market is weekly held on Wednesdays. The situation of Bangor renders it peculiarly eligible as a place of residence. The numerous pleasant rides and walks, the diversity of views, the vicinity to the sea, and the great road between Dublin and London running through it; are inducements not often combined to influence a stranger in the selection of his abode. Yet this place possesses attractive charms, that cannot fail to strike the observant visitor. "Free from the bustle of larger, and the intrigues of more polished cities, it seems peculiarly adapted for social retirement, where the mind may uninterruptedly possess leisure for reflection, and occasionally find relaxation from the strenuous ardour of investigation, in the grateful amusement of social and friendly intercourse. "Struck," says a writer, "with the place on my entering it, a closer observation of the distinct parts, that formed the agreeable whole, served to confirm my opinion and rivet my attachment; and with all the enthusiasm of Horace for his favourite Tibur, I exclaimed,

Banchor Arvona positum celono
Sit meæ sedes, utinam senectæ.

"Time's creeping winter here let shed
His hoary snow around my head;
And while I feel, by fast degrees,
My sluggard blood was chill and freeze,
Let thought unveil to my fixed eye
The scenes of deep eternity :

* Willis's Survey, &c. published in the year 1721.



Engraved by J. J. J. from a drawing by J. J. J.

A B D R.
Cromwellian

For the Beauties of England & Wales.

Till life dissolving at the view,
I wake and find the vision true."

"We left Bangor," observes another tourist, "with strong impressions in its favour, having never seen a place which united so many beauties in so narrow a circle; the sublime mountains of Caernarvonshire at a short distance from it; the picturesque scenery of its own immediate neighbourhood; and the ocean spreading its broad bosom within two miles of the town. Add to this, also, the important circumstance of its being one of the cheapest towns in the three kingdoms, and few others will appear to be so inviting and desirable for a residence as Bangor."*

Two miles from Bangor is ABER CEGID or CEGIN, through which a small rivulet empties itself into the Menai. On this a new harbour is fast rising into consequence, formed at the expense of the late Lord Penrhyn, (and called after his name) for the advantage of his lordship's slate quarries, which are four miles above at *Dolawyn*, near *Llyn Meirig*, in the mountains of *Ogwen*. The situation of Port Penrhyn is convenient, being well sheltered by the Anglesea shore, and vessels of three and four hundred tons burthen ride securely close to the quay to take in their lading; some of these are from London, Bristol, and Liverpool; but the chief trade is with Ireland. This is made the grand depot of the slate trade; and spacious warehouses are erected for that purpose; the hills from whence they are procured are some of those secondary mountains forming the first parapet of the Snowdon chain. The slates are of all sizes, from large tombstones and slabs for pavement, down to the smallest size used for roofing; they are distributed into the respective sizes, and qualities, according to the scheme below, and sold at the following prices for money only:

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Duchesses per 1000.....	3	10	0
Countesses ditto	2	0	0
			Ladies

* Warner's Walk through Wales, &c. p. 142.

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Ladies	.....	ditto	.....	1	0 0
Doubles	.....	ditto	.....	0	11 0
Singles	.....	ditto	.....	0	5 0
Patents	.....	per ton	.....	1	6 0
Rags	.....	ditto	.....	0	18 0
Kiln Ribs	.....	per yard	.....	0	0 3

In the first slate-mining concern, the slates were taleable as *one* sort; and in general were of small dimensions. But when the business came into more scientific hands, a variation, both in the size and denomination took place in the following order:

The smaller kind by way of distinction, were called *singles*; and the larger being advanced to double the price, received the appellation of *doubles*. One thousand of the latter, were consequently by the workmen accounted as two thousand of the former. As the work proceeded to improve, further distinctions as to size, and price, took place; and a third kind, under the name of *double doubles*, was distinguished in the trade. Every thousand of these were reckoned, as four thousand. A still larger sort was obtained twice the dimensions of the last. A new mode of discrimination was then thought necessary; the double doubles were called *ladies*, the quadruples, *countesses*; and afterwards still, larger sorts, were designated by divers and appropriate names.

Near the port a large manufactory of cyphering slates, ink-stands, and other fancy articles, is carried on by an agent, through whose politeness the above statement was obtained. and the following account of the process of the manufactory.

The rude slates from the mines, are first reduced to shape and size by a small edged tool, similar to a plaisterer's hatchet, the slate being previously placed on the edge of an iron plane, fixed vertically; they are then taken to the scraper, who, with a small piece of thin steel, takes off the imperfect laminæ, and

reduces the surface to a level; they are passed into other hands, who grind them with a flat stone, afterwards polished by the actions of water and slate powder; and being stained with a black water colour and framed, are piled up in grosses for exportation. They are distinguished into two sizes, large and small; price of the large, 5*l.* per gross, and the small, 2*l.* 6*s.* ditto. To such a degree of proficiency have the Welsh arrived in the manufacturing of this article, that they are able to undersell the Dutch, while the quality is much better. The slates imported by way of Holland from Switzerland and other countries, are always rough and of an indifferent colour on one side, while those of Wales, are equally coloured and polished on both: a sure criterion of the two manufactures.

At a small distance from the port, a handsome building comprising a set of hot and cold sea-water baths, with dressing rooms, &c. exhibit, in their design and execution, the taste of the architect, and the liberality of the owner. The building, for the boundage of the daily tides, stands far out, and a communication is formed with the park, by an amazing high carriage terrace, whence the surrounding views on the Menai, are seen to great advantage.

Entering the park, the embattled turrets of the noble mansion of Penrhyn appears standing on the summit of a hill, formerly embosomed with a grove of venerable oaks; which have nearly now given place to more modern plantations.

PENRHYN CASTLE, the seat of *Dowager Lady Penrhyn*, is said to have been erected upon the site of an ancient palace, belonging to *Roderic Molwynog*, who was sovereign of North Wales, in the early part of the eighth century. During the contention of the rival princes, it was levelled with the ground by *Meredydd ap Owen* in 987; who the same year, invading this country, slew the reigning monarch, *Cadwallan ap Jevaf*. In the time of *Llewelyn*, it was granted with other estates, to *Yarddur ap Trahaiarn*, from whom by the law of gavel kind, it descended

to a female ; that, with her person bestowed it on one of the posterity of Ednyfed Fychan. A descendant *William Fychan*, chamberlain of North Wales, was made an English denizen, on the sole condition, that he should not intermarry with a *Welsh woman* : such were the maxims of severity adopted and enforced against the oppressed Cambrians, in the time of Henry the sixth. William's father, Gwilim ap Gryffyd, obtained the hereditary chamberlainship, and had previously been admitted to the same privilege by his intermarriage with Alice, daughter of Sir Richard Dalton, of Althorpe, in Northamptonshire. *Sir William Gryffydd*, cotemporary with Henry the eighth, and who was present with that prince at the siege of Boulogne, was the means, by his indefatigable exertions, of preserving the valuable records in two parchment books ; one of which, called, *The Extent* of North Wales, is now in the Chamberlain's office ; and the other, in that of the auditor's in London.*

Piers Gryffydd, in the reign of Elizabeth, was possessor of Penrhyn, and eminently distinguished himself, by fitting out a ship of war, at his own expence, in which he sailed from Beaumaris, April 20, 1588, and joined the celebrated admiral, Sir Francis Drake, had the honour of sharing with him, and other loyal heroes, the laurels obtained by the signal defeat of the Spanish armada. It came into the family of *Pennant*, partly by the purchase of the late Lord Penrhyn's father, and partly by his own marriage with Anne Susannah, daughter, and sole heiress of the late General Warburton, of Winnington. By this matrimonial compact, the two moieties which had for some time been divided, became united ; and her ladyship is now, for want of heirs male, in possession of the whole.†

The

* *Mona Antiqua*.

† A detailed and circumstantial illustration of the house of Penrhyn, may be seen in "A Genealogical Account of the Families of Penrhyn and Cochwillan, &c. by the late Rev. John Thomas, A. M. of Beaumaris." Printed at the end of Williams's Observations, &c.

The house appears to have been rebuilt in the reign of Henry the sixth, by the afore-mentioned Gwillim ap Gryffydd; and prior to the late alterations, exhibited a fair specimen of the domestic architecture, prevalent at that period. The arms of Stanley, having the female distinction, empaled with his own, were to be seen in the stained glass of the hall windows, so late as the year 1764.* The buildings stand round a large court, entered by a handsome gateway surmounted by a tower. One side of the area is flanked by a magnificent hall, and the others by divers spacious apartments. The structure has lately received considerable improvements, from designs by *Wyatt*. The whole is new fronted with yellow brick, which gives it the appearance of stone; and to the credit of the architect, as well as the taste of the late noble owner, due respect has been paid to the original design, except that the *chapel* has been removed to a different site, "Like that of our Lady of Loretto," says a humourous bard, "it changed its former situation in the court of castellated Penrhyn, for a grove at a few yards distance: and though under the guidance of *mortal agency* only, its flight has been by judgment; and it has rested scientifically." It was carefully taken down and re-constructed with the same materials, and upon a similar plan; but the modernized porch forms an heterogeneous vestibule. The interior is neatly fitted up, and the chancel part elegant. The pulpit, composed of cedar, including three panels of carved wainscot oak, exhibit specimens in basso-relievo, perhaps never surpassed. The subjects, *The Scourging*, *Crucifixion*, and *Resurrection* of the Saviour. At the east end a large pointed window, glazed with most brilliant stained glass, was executed by that able artist, *Mr. Egginton* of Birmingham.

The stables are considered among the first in the kingdom, for elegance and accommodation. The building has a handsome façade, fronted with patent slate, and the pilasters, which divide the stalls, together with the mangers, are of the same material. Indeed this very valuable article appears to be converted

* Pennant's Tours in Wales, Vol. III. p. 90.

on the Penrhyn demesne, to every possible use. The park is fenced with it; narrow upright slate slabs, cut in imitation of palisadoes, are fixed by pins to oaken railings, which find their support in posts formed of cubic slate.

The principal entrance into the park is by a *grand gateway*, in the manner of a Roman triumphal arch, which, though correspondent to the magnificence, does not perfectly harmonize with the style of the mansion. The river Ogwen, that used to roll its waters over a widely-extended rubly bed, is here confined within narrow limits; and several cascades appear through vistas in the plantations from the front of the house.

Here is still preserved a *hirlas*, or drinking horn, of the hero Piers Gryffydd; and is perhaps the only elegant specimen of that kind of utensil, elucidatory of ancient manners, at present subsisting. It is a large bugle of an ox, ornamented with enchased silver, and suspended by a chain of the same metal, having the initials of his own name and family engraved at the end. In the royal court of Cambria there were legally *three* sorts of horns, for the purpose of private or public libations. The first was *y corn ydd yfo y brenin*, or the one solely appropriated to the king's use. Secoud, *Corn cyweithas*, by which the domestics of the palace were summoned to duty. And, third, *Corn y pen-cynydd*, committed to the custody of the chief huntsman.* Each of these was to be of the reputed value of one pound. On grand occurrences, the domestics of the palace were permitted to drink out of the sovereign's horn; and the chamberlain, or high steward, on such occasions, furnished handsome potations of the generous metheglin. The contents of the horn, at these times, assumed the name of the sacred potion, similar to the *wassail bowl*, or the apostle's cup, in use among the Saxons. Ulphus, when he conveyed certain lands to the church of York, is said to have quaffed off the sparkling contents of such a vessel, drinking a health, "*Deo et sancto Petro*," to God and St. Peter.† On festive days the imperious custom was to empty the horn

* *Leges Wallicæ*, Lib. iv. p. 311.

† *Archæologia*, Vol. III. p. 8.



Engraved by Woolbach after a sketch by H. Williams. E. 9.

Fall of the
RIVER OGWEN.
North Wales.

For the Beauties of England & Wales.

thorn one tip, and instantly blow it, as a testimony that no dereliction of draught had occurred.

“ Fill the horn with foaming liquor,
 Fill it up, my boy, be quicker ;
 Hence away despair and sorrow
 Time enough, to sigh to-morrow.
 Let the brimming goblet smile,
 And *Ednyfed's* cares beguile
 Gallant youth, unus'd to fear,
 Master of the broken spear,
 And the arrow-pierced shield
 Brought with honour from the field.
 Like an hurricane is he,
 Bursting on the troubled sea.
 See their spears distain'd with gore,
 Hear the din of battle roar !
 Bucklers, swords, together clashing
 Sparkles from their helmets flashing !
 Hear ye not their loud alarms ?
 Hark ! they shout—to arms ! to arms !
 Thus were Garthen's plains defended,
 Maelor fight began, and ended,
 There two princes fought ; and there
 Was Morach Vorvran's feast exchange'd, for rout and fear.”*

In the vicinity of Penrhyn, on the stream of the Ogwen, is a curious mill, to grind *petrosilex*, or *chert*, *quartz*, and *flints*, for the use of the porcelain and delph ware potteries. The machinery is well contrived, and consists of two overshot wheels,

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* See an elegant poem written by Owain Cyveiliog, a bard, who flourished in the twelfth century, intitled *HIRLAS OWAIN*.” The original may be found in Evan Evans's Collections, published with an English dress in Pen-nant's Tours, Vol. III. p. 93.* This spirited translation, by a gentleman, under the signature of R. W. must convince the reader of genuine taste, that a true poetical genius pervaded, at times, the bosom of the Welsh ; and that some of Owain Cyveiliog's works, need not shrink from a comparison with the first classical productions of Lyric poetry.

* More of the elegant performances of this poet have been since collected in the *Myvyrian Archæology*.

about twenty feet in diameter, having trundles on the beams, sixteen do.; which, working within the mill, impart power to another large horizontal trundle-wheel, lifting several upright levers, that again operate on others, on two floors above. Circular vessels are paved at bottom with gritstone: on each of these is a centre with several elbows, between which are placed large flat stones, moved rapidly round by the communicated motion. The chert and flints are previously roasted in kilns nearly similar to those, used for the calcination of lime. The materials so prepared are put into the molindary vessels, with a portion of water, and ground into an impalpable powder. The mass in a fluid state is let out into divers reservoirs, where, after undergoing various decantations, is carried to a drying stove, and then packed in casks, and shipped to different parts of the kingdom. The chert and quartz are obtained from the base of Carnedd Llewelyn, in the parish of Llan Llechid; and the flints are brought, as ballast, in the ships that convey the slates from this county to Ireland.

An ore of Manganese is also here prepared for the purposes of bleaching; and an ore of zinc, as a substitute for white lead, in pigments. These compact, though varied works reflect the highest credit on the ingenuity, science, and energetic spirit of the proprietors, Messrs. Worthington and Co. the former of whom is chief agent for lady Penrhyn's slate quarries.

On the eminence, just above the banks of the Ogwen, stands the very neat structure of LLANDEGAI* church; it is built cruciform, the tower resting upon four arches in the centre of the building; and the style marks the age of Edward the third. The church-yard is inclosed by a slate fence round the bottom of the cone-shaped hill; which, with the neatness of the edifice, and the perspicuous situation, gives it a pleasing appearance. It is celebrated for being the burial-place of ARCHBISHOP
WILLIAMS.

* TEGAI, a son of Ithel Hael, that lived about the close of the fifth century, was a saint, who came over with Cadvan, from Armorica, to renovate the declining state of Christianity in Britain.

WILLIAMS. A mural monument,* with the figure of the prelate in his archi-episcopal robes, kneeling before an altar, is placed over his remains.† On sight of this monument, Dr. Davies felt himself poetically inspired, and produced the elegant lines preserved in Dodsley's Collection, vol. 6. After lamenting over the fallen honours of the degraded prelate, he breaks out in an animated apostrophe.

"Could not thy Lincoln yield her pastor room,
Could not thy York supply thee with a tomb."

And ends with this pleasing moral.

"Envied ambition, what are all thy schemes
But waking misery, or pleasing dreams;
Sliding and tottering on the heights of state,
The subject of this vase declares thy fate;
Great as he was, you see how small the gain
A burial so obscure, a muse so mean."

This great man was the subject and the sport of fortune, for a series of years. He successively enjoyed her favours, was exalted to the see of Lincoln, became lord-keeper of the privy-seal, and was made metropolitan of York. While in the former station, he was tried by his peers, and being found guilty of subornation, suffered imprisonment, from 1637 to 1640. After being liberated, he was raised to the archi-episcopal see of York: being shortly after banished. He died at the house of Sir Roger Mostyn, of Gloddaeth, in 1650, aged 68. Mr. Pennant has said, "that he must be considered as a wise, rather than a good man." He is charged with being haughty, highly resentful, and his character fraught with duplicity; the protest

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* A most verbose, and fulsome, Latin epitaph, composed by Mr. Hackett, his chaplain, afterwards Bishop of Litchfield, thus concludes: "Pass on, traveller, in what you have seen your curiosity must be gratified."

† The yellow face, however, put upon it, by an ochreous wash, to correspond with the front of Penhryn Castle, very ill accords with the antique style of the building.

he made in the House of Lords,* is produced as a proof of the former; and the advice he gave his unfortunate master,† with regard to the Earl of Strafford, of the latter. It must be confessed, that in his political conduct, the archbishop discovered too much of the cursed doctrine of *Machiavel*, “a public, and a private conscience;” but it should be remembered, that he lived in times, when political and moral order were trampled under feet; when the spirit of party ran so high, as to overwhelm the consideration of strict justice: and the want of charity and honour were lost in the provocations of injury, and prevarications were suggested, by the sudden impulse of self-preservation. He retired, in the latter part of his life, to the peaceful retreats of North Wales, devoted his life to meditation and prayer, and is said to have met death with a fortitude, that must have been inspired by a believing hope, and a resignation, that bespoke the faith of the Christian.

On the south side of the altar is an ancient tomb, ornamented with cherubic figures, on which are two recumbent figures in alabaster, representing a knight and his lady, supposed to be commemorative of Gwilym ap Gryffydd, of Penrhyn Castle.

The whole of this once desolate tract of country, by the beneficent and commercial spirit of the late Lord Penrhyn, aided by the energies of several scientific adventurers from England, has been converted into a most lovely and interesting spot. Several small villas, decorated with plantations, now adorn the once woodless waste, and the numerous neat houses erected under
his

* In 1644, on the debate for taking away the votes of Bishops in the House of Peers, he, by an impassioned speech, induced eleven bishops to join him in the protest against all acts that should pass the house during their forced absence; for this they were impeached of high treason, and doomed to eighteen months imprisonment, but soon after released upon bail. The archbishop was banished from his diocese during the disturbances in the county of York.

† His advice to Charles was, in case the king could not win Cromwell by promises, and fair treatment; to have recourse to stratagem for the security of his person, and endeavour to procure the usurper's assassination.

his lordship's direction, for the use of persons employed in the slate quarries, and other works, wears the appearance of a populous town. A small, but elegant chapel, in the pointed style, has also been recently erected for their devotional accommodation.

The principal *slate quarry* is at *Braich y cefn*, near *Dolawen*; and the land, which was for centuries considered as scarcely of any value, is now become a source of immense revenue. Slates were obtained at an early period, in this part of the island; and, therefore, were probably employed as *roofing*, anterior to the period usually assigned for their adoption. The first, sent coastwise, were imported from the mouth of the Ogwen River. For Sion Tudur, a bard, who flourished about the year 1580, and held the office of registrar of the consistorial court, in a poetical address to Dr. Rolant Thomas, Dean of Bangor; requests him to procure for him a cargo of slates, from *Aber Ogwen*. The proprietors of the Penrhyn estate long claimed the eighth part *ad valorem* of all the slates, quarried on that property; according to the price they sold for at the water side: and a superintendant accounted with the slate groviers, once a-year. About the year 1765, the then agent, Mr. Hughes, finding such a mode of collection intricate, and uncertain, adopted a different method, and let the quarries to workmen at an annual chief-rent of twenty shillings each. By this means the proceeds were about equal to what they had been previous to the alteration: viz. *eighty pounds* per annum.

Lord Penrhyn, viewing with an observant and benevolent eye, the little advantages derivable, either to the estate, or those engaged in the concern, by this puny and inefficient mode of working, determined on the judicious plan of opening a vast quarry. This was effected in the year 1782; and, in a few years, the number of hands employed amounted to no less than six hundred.* Proprietors of slate rocks in other parts, followed

* When his late lordship came into possession of the Penrhyn estates, the annual export of slates did not amount to more than a thousand tons. At present

ed his lordship's example; and the sum of money brought into Caernarvonshire tended to enrich the inhabitants, and materially benefit the country.

This quarry is of immense depth; and the singular appearance, from the rude and grotesque appearance of the residual cliffs, the bustling scene of the workmen on the different ledges of rock, the noise arising from disrupting the strata by blasting, the separating and shaping the different laminæ, forms a scene, whose novelty must afford amusement to some, and its geological and commercial relations, render highly interesting to others. "Here I found several immense openings, with sides and bottoms, as rude as imagination can paint, that had been formed in getting the slate. On first surveying them, a degree of surprise is excited, how such yawning chasms could have been formed by any but the immediate operations of Nature; and even on more mature reflection, our astonishment at the efforts of man does not altogether subside."*

The slates were, for a long time, conveyed to the port by means of carts, at a very heavy expence. But lately an iron tram-road has been completed, which runs entirely from the quarry, and round the quay, an extent of six miles. This is a work nothing but Genius could have contrived, and energy executed. The mountainous nature of the country apparently defied the art of man, to accomplish such an undertaking. Yet, notwithstanding the numerous local obstacles, there are only four double inclined planes on the general line; the longest of which is two hundred and twenty yards. Down these, three waggons are let slide at a time, by means of machinery, consisting of a winch and a lever applied to a cylinder. This regulates the descent of the loaded, and the ascent, at the same time, of the empty vehicles. In this manner fifteen pass in a
very

present, there are not less than one hundred tons per diem, conveyed from the quarries to Port Penrhyn. And from five to six hundred tons are shipped every week.

* Bingley's North Wales, Vol. I. p. 179:

very short space, which, being fastened together by chains, are drawn along the levels by two horses. These waggons, on an average, contain upwards of twelve tons of slates. The tramway is formed upon the most scientific principles, the wheels of the waggon are concave, and run upon a narrow convex bar, by which friction is greatly diminished, and much time gained. Six or eight horses now perform the work, which formerly required more than eighty. This is not only a saving to the proprietor, but in a county where hay and corn are scarce commodities, must be an object of importance to the residentiary population. Among many other additional improvements may be reckoned a *sawing mill*, which converts large fragments of slate rock into slabs, for hearth stones, chimney pieces, sepulchral monuments, fence, railing, &c. &c. The concern is, at present, conducted by Mr. Worthington, under a covenanted agreement with Lady Penrhyn.

The lofty rocks in this vicinity contain copper ore, molybdena, steatite, &c. &c. And *hones* are obtained from a rock on the eastern side of

NANT FRANCON, or the valley of Beavers, a corruption from *Nant yr Afanc*, is supposed to be so denominated from having been formerly a cover for those amphibious animals, no longer inhabitants of the country; but found, according to report, in this valley, less than a century ago. This formerly was a tremendous glen, or rather chasm; but, by the efforts of human industry, some of its wild and terrific appearances have been dissipated. It comprises a narrow strip of meadow land, surrounded by lofty mountains; through which meanders the small river Ogwen, towards the sea. Down a rocky height, called the *Benglog*, rush the waters of five fakes, into a deep pool beneath, forming a very picturesque and grand waterfall. This, consisting of three cataracts, is best viewed by descending from the road into the deep bottom beneath. The lower fall is the most considerable, over which the Ogwen rushes, roars, and rolls, in one sheet of foam and spray down an integral, and nearly perpendicular, rock. By climbing a broken rocky steep, the river is seen precipitating itself in a more majestic

jestic stream, through a chasm between two vertical cliffs. The third, some height above, is less romantic; but its broad expanse of water participates of the grand, immense, and singular mountain *Trivaen*,* filling the space behind; and in the foreground the waters are seen dashing in various directions among the loose masses of rock that lie scattered in the rugged bed of the river. Near the rudest part of the glen, on *Ogwen Bank*, an elegant pavilion, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, has been built for Lady Penrhyn. Surrounded with luxuriant plantations, it certainly forms a striking contrast with the bleak and barren mountains in the vicinity. And though considerable taste has been displayed, it would savour of poetic licence to call it, "an acre of Tempe among the rocks of Norway." From Bangor to the Benglog, the road is nearly the whole distance upon the ascent; but after this narrow pass, it extends by the side of Llyn Ogwen, and continues under the mountains, almost on a level, to Capel Cerrig; where the late Lord Penrhyn erected, for the accommodation of the public, a handsome inn; so that travellers through this dreary region, may now meet with good entertainment, and very excellent lodging. Since this inn and hotel has been occupied, it has become a fashionable resort. During the summer months, numerous genteel families, and others, make a temporary residence at Capel Cerrig, to enjoy the numerous diversified and interesting walks and rides, amidst the magnificent objects of the surrounding scenery.

This *Cerrig*, or *Curig*, to whom the chapel is dedicated, was a saint, who fixed his cell here, about the sixth century. *Lewis Glyn Cothi*, a bard, exposes, in a humourous manner, the iniquitous practices adopted by the mendicant friars in the dark
ages,

* A particular description of this geological wonder, and some of less striking, but not less interesting, features, may be found in Pennant's *Tours*, Vol. II. p. 322. It is rather unaccountable that the indefatigable tourist, who accurately describes most of the objects in the vicinity, should have omitted this; and that the omission should not have been noticed by the editor of the late edition.

ages, to fleece their deluded admirers. Profiting by the veil of superstition, cast over the eyes of the people, they bartered with them for corn, cheese, bacon, &c. miniature images of certain reputed saints. Among numerous others, those of Curig and Seiriol were peculiarly negotiable, the effigy of the latter being reckoned infallible for the removal of inveterate disorders; and the former equally efficacious in the expulsion of evil spirits.

“Gurig lwyd dan gwr ei go'l,

Gwâs arall, a ddug Seiriol.

Beneath his cloak the begging friar bore

The guardian charm, grey Curig, to the door

Another Seiriol's healing image sold,

And found the useful saints, like modern gold.

LLOYD.

Returning through Nant Francon, and pursuing the eastern road, two miles from the pleasing village of ABER GWYNGREGIN, in a most romantic glen, through which a small rivulet finds its passage to the sea, is a very fine waterfall. On one side the hollow is flanked by a magnificent rock, called *Maes y gaer*; and a bridge, consisting of a single arch, with the accompaniments of wood and water, form a lovely foreground. *Rhaiadr mawr* includes two falls. The ravine is terminated by a mountain presenting a concave front, through a chasm of which the torrent precipitates its waters over two immense ledges of rock. The upper is broken into three, sometimes four divisions, by the rugged face of the impending cliff; but the lower one, upwards of sixty feet in height, forms a broad white sheet; that, from the snow-like dew of the spray, has been very aptly compared to the *Staubbach*, or dusty cascade, in Switzerland.

A small artificial mount on the western side of the stream is notable, as the site of a palace, erected by Llewelyn the Great; and where, according to some historians, an intrigue was discovered, between *William Bruce*, or *de Breos*, son of Reginald

de

de Breos, a potent baron, who lived in the reign of Henry the third and Joan the daughter of that monarch. The English chieftain had been taken prisoner, by the Welsh forces, at Montgomery; but on paying a ransom of three thousand marks,* and relinquishing a portion of territory, the following year obtained his emancipation. By an ambuscade he shortly after got into the same situation, and is said to have then had an amour with the princess *Joan*, consort of Llewelyn, and sister of king Henry; and that he suffered an ignominious death, by the command of the injured husband.† Mr. Pennant observes, that the second captivity of de Breos was not, owing to the chance of war, but, a *ruse de guerre*. “The vindictive Llewelyn in the following year, 1229, inveigled Breos into his power, by an invitation, to celebrate the feast of Easter; when after an elegant banquet, the prince reproached him with his crime, and caused him to be dragged from his presence, and hung on an adjacent hill.‡

This was occupied by Llewelyn ap Gryffydd, at the time he received the insolent summons of Edward the first, to resign the principality to the English crown on the three qualified conditions, dictated by the archbishop of Canterbury; which clearly evinced the oppressive measures pursued by the haughty monarch.

In Leland's time, parts of the building were standing; || they are now only traceable by remaining foundations on the hill, called *Mwd*, or the tumulus.

PENMAEN MAWR, over which the great Irish road, via Chester, passes to London, protruding itself into the sea, exhibits a fine contrast with the adjacent fertility; by a wildly scenic view of weather-beaten rocks. This was justly once the dread
of

* Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I. p. 419. The Welsh Chronicle states, that exclusive of a large pecuniary fine, he offered to resign the Cantref of Buellt.

† Warrington's History of Wales, Vol. II. p. 61.

‡ Tours in Wales, Vol. III. p. 112.

|| Itinerary, Vol. V. p. 45.

of the neighbourhood ; the immense promontory affording only a narrow zigzag path, along the shelf on its side, for the terrified traveller to pass. Under his feet were showers of rugged stones, impeding his progress ; beneath, a hundred fathoms down, the roaring ocean, foaming against the perpendicular base of the mountain ; and over his head the impending precipice momentarily threatening by its shivering aspect, to overwhelm, or hurry him headlong down the craggy steep. The danger, from the declivity of the mountain, with the crumbling nature of the strata, increased with his progress ; and in several difficult parts of the road, one false step must have inevitably proved fatal. From the numerous accidents that occurred, it was long an object of melancholy consideration to the inhabitants in the vicinity ; the winter evenings were often spent in the alarming tales of the perils and disasters attendant on passing Penmaen mawr ; but several of the incidents, related by grave writers, have much more the appearance of marvellous embellishment, than sober narrative.

The pass, however, must have presented very formidable obstacles to the traveller, and the description of Dryden, in his “ Rival Ladies,” is not an unapt representation :

“ As from a steep and dreadful precipice,
The frightened traveller casts down his eyes,
And sees the ocean at so great a distance,
It looks as if the skies were sunk beneath him.
If then some neighbouring shrub, how weak soever,
Peeps his willing eyes stop gladly there,
And seem to ease themselves and rest upon it.”

Formerly there was a house of entertainment at the foot of the ascent each way, and on the signs distichs; allusive to the hazardous and laborious journey said to have been the composition of Swift.

The one. “ Before you venture hence to pass,
Take a good refreshing glass.

The

defended by a wall towards the sea, at a much earlier period. "We went over the famous precipice called Penman mawr, which fame has made abundance more frightful than it really is, indeed, very high, and if any one should fall from it, he would be dashed to pieces; yet, on the other hand, there is no danger of falling; and besides, there is now a wall built all the way on the edge of the precipice to secure them; those who have been at the hill or pass of Enterkin, in Scotland, know very well the danger there, is much greater."*

On the summit of a hill called *Braich y Dinas* rising out of Penmaen, are the ruins of a castle, the fortifications of which were capable of containing 20,000 men; the remains of walls are still standing, and a well, that supplied the garrison, is constantly full of water, furnished principally by the *condensed vapour* of the mountain.

This was considered the strongest post possessed by the Welsh in the district of Snowdon: it was of great magnitude, and so strong by its natural position, that a hundred men might have defended themselves against an army; in that age it was deemed impregnable, and here it was, the remains of the Welsh army were posted, pending the negociation betwixt Edward and Llewelyn.

The ruin consists of remains of ancient massy walls, constructed without mortar, including numerous circular buildings, probably vestiges of habitations; similar to those previously described at Tre'r Caeri. There cannot exist a doubt upon the mind of persons, who have attentively viewed the different fortified heights, still subsisting in Wales, but this was a military fortress, erected by the Britons to cover the passage of an army for the defence of Anglesea; notwithstanding what Governor Pownall has urged contrary to this generally received opinion. His conjectures of its having never been intended, as a defensive post is, from the testimony of history; rendered nugatory; and to those who have visited the spot, his opinion, that

* See a Tour in Great Britain, printed by Strahan, 1725.

it was one of the consecrated places belonging to the Druids, will appear nothing better than antiquarian vagary.*

A Welsh poem,† written by *Sir Dafydd Owen*, states, that in the reign of Henry the eighth, there resided in the vicinity an ascetic of a peculiar character. If he possessed not an enviable situation, his property was desirable. For it seems the hermit was robbed, by a set of associated thieves; and the inventory of the goods purloined from this professed cell of privation, mortification, and penance, is a most humorous burlesque on the hypocrisy of the times.

CONWY.

THIS fine old fortified town is supposed by some to have been the *Conovium* of the Romans, but the site of that was evidently at a place still retaining the appellation of *Caer Rhûn*, some miles distant. The authentic annals of the place commence no earlier than with the history of its CASTLE, erected here A. D. 1284, by the command of Edward the first: as a further security, in addition to Caernarvon, against the insurrecting spirit of the Welsh.

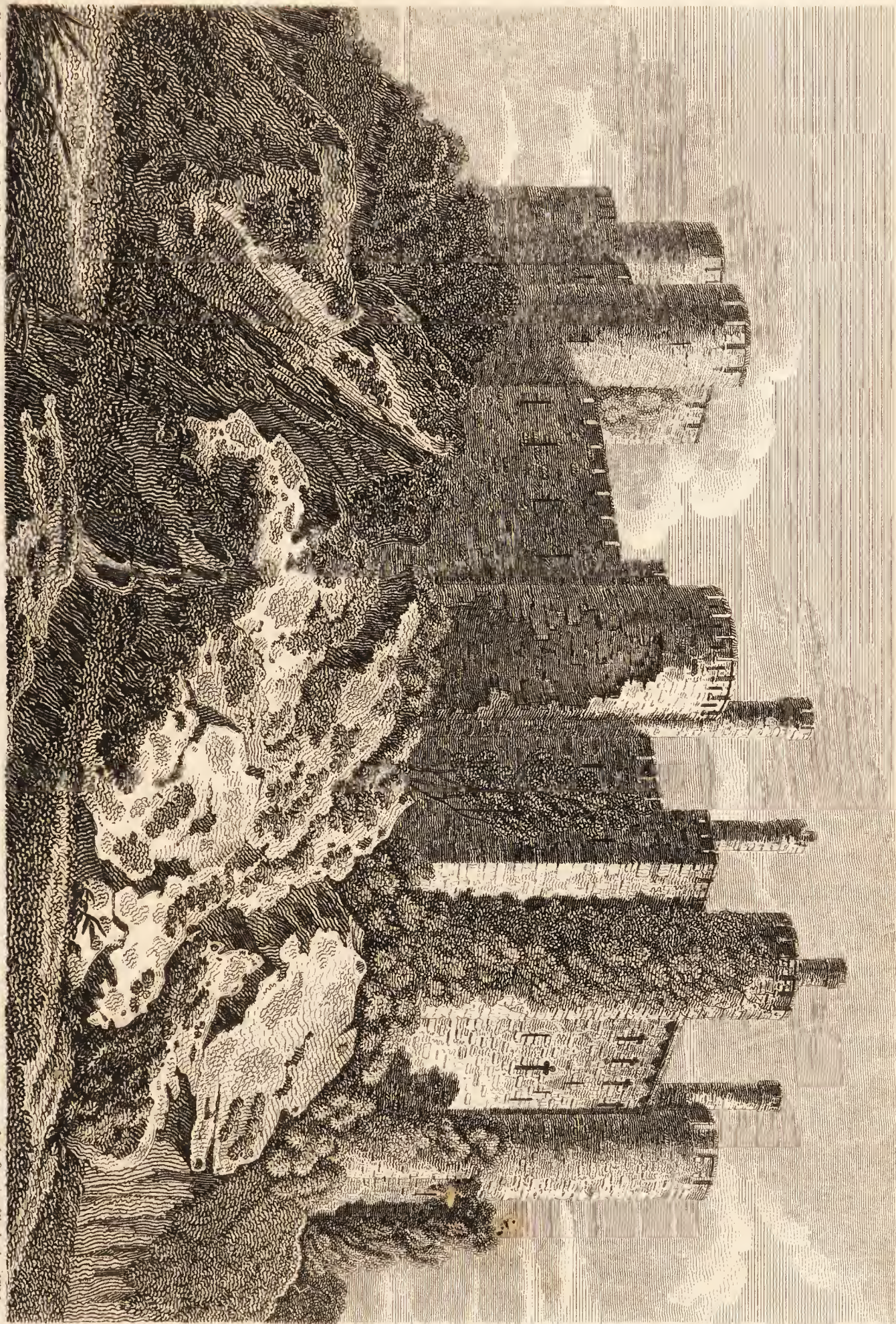
Few of the events, connected with this fortress, have been recorded. Soon after its erection the royal founder was besieged in it, and the garrison almost reduced by famine, to an unconditional surrender. They were at length extricated from their perilous situation, by the arrival of a fleet freighted with provisions, and reinforcements.

In the year 1399, Richard the second, previous to his return from Ireland, had commanded the troops, raised in his behalf against the usurper *Bolingbroke*, to make their rendezvous at Conwy. The friends of the monarch had mustered strong, under the command of the earl of Salisbury. But wearied by the

* *Archæologia*, Vol. III. p. 303.

† The title of the work is, "*Cywydd yspeilwyr Meudwy'r Penmeaen mawr.*"

Engraved by J. Goussier, from a Drawing by J. H. P. Goussier, Esq.



For the Beauties of England and Wales.



the delays and tergiversation of that ill-fated prince, many returned to their respective homes. A number, however, sufficient to have made a strong attempt in his favour still remained, attached to the royal cause ; had not the king panic-struck at the opposing forces, privately, by night, decamped from this impregnable strong hold. Shortly after, by the insinuating treachery of the earl of Northumberland, he fell into a most detestable snare, which eventually cost him both his crown, and life.

At the commencement of the civil wars, it was garrisoned for king Charles the first, by Dr. John Williams, archbishop of York. To whose custody numbers of the country gentlemen confided their plate and other valuables and moveables, receiving a receipt from the arch prelate, who considered himself answerable for their restoration on the return of better times. He at the same time bestowed the government of the castle on his nephew *William Hookes*, in the year 1643. In May 1645, Prince Rupert impolitically superseded the archbishop in the command of North Wales. Irritated at this insulting conduct, it being done without the smallest attention, to give him any virtual security, for the property, of which he had previously received the charge ; Williams became decisively disgusted : and having received an offer from *Mytton* of protection, under the Parliamentary authority, he joined issue with that general, and assisted in the reduction of Conwy. The town was taken by storm on August 15, 1646, and the castle surrendered on the 10th of November. For these services, the archbishop, who had received a wound in the neck, obtained a general pardon for his prior opposition to the Parliament ; and a release from the sequestration, that had been made of his estates : and Mytton, whose character partook more of haughtiness than avarice, restored to every individual the property, previously entrusted to the arch prelate's care.

The existing authorities appear, for a time, to have evinced unusual forbearance towards this fortress. The Parliamen-

rian forces, while they dismantled other castles, laid no violent hands on this, subsequent to its capitulation ; either struck with veneration for such a magnificent building, or with a view to win by moderation the minds of the country. This conciliatory spirit, however, was far from being manifested by their loyal successors in power. A grant had been made of it by king Charles to the earl of Conwy and Kilulta, who no sooner had obtained possession, than he ordered an agent to remove the timber, iron, lead, and other valuable materials, and transport them to Ireland, under pretence, for his majesty's service ! but, they were generally supposed, afterwards, to have been converted to buildings and repairs on the earl's estates, in that country. In vain did the three deputy-lieutenants for the management of the royal affairs in North Wales, remonstrate against such demolishing proceedings. Their objections were over-ruled, the earl persisted in his plan ; and this noble pile was rendered roofless and floorless, and the whole nearly reduced to its present condition.*

Subsequent to the conquest of the country, Edward with his consort Eleanor, accompanied by the chief English nobility and gentry, spent a Christmas here, in all the varied festivities a luxurious court could wish. The hall, crowded with chivalrous knights, and admiring ladies, resounded with the sounds of feudal times ; and its walls re-echoed the voice of merriment and mirth.

Hence were issued also many of the severe edicts against the stubborn Welsh, who, though conquered, were not subdued ; and which instigated the bards to indulge in all the malice of unqualified sarcasm. From the unroofed and unprotected state to which it was reduced by the earl of Conway's agent, it necessarily suffered material injuries from time to time by the agency of winds and weather. The heap of rubbish remaining in the river, nearly opposite the castle, once constituted a round tower,

* See a letter addressed to the commissioners on this subject, dated October 6, 1665, signed CONWY and KILULTA : published in the Appendix to Pennant's Tours.

tower, terminating a curtain rampart, which extended from the angle of the town wall. A similar one, running out from the other end, has long been destroyed. The uses of these were to prevent an enemy from making any approach by water, that might have endangered the safety of the place, and for the protection of the vessels lying in the harbour. A tower on the south side, by the imprudence of the inhabitants, in quarrying the foundation for slates, some years since, rent asunder. Part standing erect, and part hanging in an oblique direction on the surbasing rock, the whole forms a singular instance of a dilacerated building.

This castle, like its rival in strength and grandeur, is going fast to decay; and the dilapidating hand of time promises soon to deprive the county of one of its principal ornamental objects.

“ Proud Pile ! thy tempest-beaten towers, still rear
 Their heads sublime, and to the angry storm
 Bid bold defiance ; though their aged brows
 Bear visible the marks of strong decay,
 While superstition, with a frenzied eye,
 And wildering fear, that horrid form surveys,
 Affright the lonely wanderer from thy walls.
 Far hence thou busy world, nor here intrude
 Thy sounds of uproar, arguing much of fear,
 And impotent alarms. Behold, fond man,
 This feeble monument of mortal pride,
 Where time and desolation reign supreme
 With mildest havoc ; o’er the solemn scene
 In silence pause ; and mark this pictured truth ;
 That not alone, the proudest works of man
 Must perish, but, as this tow’ring fabric,
 That lifts its forehead to the storm, till time
 And the wild winds shall sweep it from its base,
 Pass but a few short hours, the dream of life
 Is fled ; and sinks to the cold grave man’s faded form.”

If the architect was the same person who built Caernarvon, as generally allowed, he must have here used all his exertion, and endeavoured to display his most transcendent skill. For

perhaps a more beautiful fortress never arose: certainly its equal is no where found within the precincts of Britain. The form is nearly a parallelogram, or rather oblong, extending along the verge of a precipitous rock, washed on two sides by a fork of the river: the others front the town. The walls are of great thickness, flanked by eight vast, circular, embattled towers, each having a slender machicolated one issuing from the top. These ascended by spiral staircases, served the purpose of watch turrets, and gave an elegant degree of lightness to the appearance of the building.*

This fortress had two ways of ingress, both admirably contrived for security. The one, by a narrow flight of steps, cut out of the rock, formed a communication between the castle and the river, through a small advanced work, and was evidently intended as a *postern*. But the *grand entrance* was at the north-west end, by a draw-bridge, occasionally let down over a deep and wide foss.

The interior, consists of two courts, comprising the different apartments. Few of these are traceable, except the *state hall* whose greatness, though now fallen, appears originally to have been suitable to the magnificence, of the founder. The length is thirty feet, the breadth about the same, and the height twenty. Its grand roof, alas! now supplied by a portion of the canopy of heaven, was supported by eight arches, four of which only now remain. It had two spacious fire-places; was lighted by six narrow windows on the side towards the river, and three larger, and more ornamented ones, looked into the inner court. Underneath were, extensive vaults, serving to contain arms and ammunition in time of war; and in peace the magazines and stores essential to convivial festivities.

The ruinous arches and broken walls of this hall are clad with darksome ivy, which issues from them in the most fantastic forms, and luxuriant profusion.

Two towers opposite the principal gateway, one denominated the

* Four of these have been long down.

the king's, and the other the queen's, served as their respective apartments, when they took up their abode at the castle. Each contained two or three rooms, and in the latter an opening, or niche, obtained out of the thickness of the wall, had a groined roof, the ribs of which formed six compartments. In these were originally seats, and the light admitted through three narrow lancet-shaped windows towards the river. This was called the *Oriel*, or the place for the queen's toilet.

Whether this magnificent fortress be viewed as a whole, or its various component parts examined in detail, nothing in fortified building can exceed its grandeur, and relative proportions. Merely to observe, that this structure is a majestic pile of building, boldly standing on a supereminent rock, whose base is washed by the surges of a noble tide river, would be furnishing but a very inadequate idea of the place. Nor is it less interesting by its varied concomitant beauties.

The Town was surrounded by high massy walls, twelve feet thick, strengthened at intervals by twenty-four circular and semicircular towers. These, with the four principal gateways, remain in tolerable preservation; and on the northern side, eight of those appear ranging to great advantage. Nor, perhaps, is there any fortified town where works of military art are so happily blended with the picturesque features of Nature. But how struck will the traveller be with the contrast, when he enters the place. Justly has it been said, "that a more ragged town is scarcely to be seen within, or a more beautiful one without." A few tolerable houses, numbers in a dilapidated state, and miserable looking cottages, constitute this once flourishing station. The major part of the space within the walls being, at present, occupied by gardens, orchards, &c.

AN ABBEY for monks of the *Cistercian* order, was founded here, A. D. 1185, by *Llewelyn ap Jorwerth*; who endowed it with lands to a vast extent, and bestowed upon the members numerous privileges and immunities. But the politic Edward was too wary to trust within the walls of his new town, such a spiritual institution, composed of natives of the principality.

He removed, therefore, the religious to a new foundation of his own, erected at *Maynan*, on the Denbighshire side of the river: and the conventual church was made parochial, with three officiating chaplains, two English, and one Welsh.

Scarcely a vestige of the monastic buildings is now traceable: indeed Leland records, that when the institution was translated, part of the castle was probably erected on the site.*

In the church a singular *epitaph* evinces the peculiar fecundity of two persons belonging to the family of *Hookes*. “*Here lyeth the body of NICHOLAS HOOKES of CONWAY, Gent. who was the 41st child of his father WILLIAM HOOKES, Esq. by ALICE his wife, and the father of twenty-seven children; who died the 20th day of MARCH, 1637.*”

In the principal street is an old mansion called the *Plas mawr*, having several initials in front, and over the gateway *ΑΥΓΧΒ ΑΠΕΧΒ*. The apartments, which are numerous, are ornamented with divers emblems, and groups of figures, disposed of, over the ceilings and pannels of the walls, interspersed with numerous coats of arms. This is said to have been erected by *Thomas Wynn, Esq.* in the reign of Elizabeth. Indeed the whole manifests the *motley* mode of internal decorations, adopted in domestic architecture at that period.

By a charter of Edward, Conway was constituted a free borough, and the mayor was also to be constable of the castle. The town is at present governed by an alderman, recorder, coroner, water bailiff, and two serjeants at mace, elected annually.

The number of houses is 182, and inhabitants 889. The *port* is a dry harbour, frequented by a few small coasting vessels, but the trade is very inconsiderable: an extensive quay ranges on the eastern side of the town wall.

The *ferry* of vast importance, as lying on one of the great roads between London and Ireland, is justly viewed as a very hazardous passage, and many are the accidents that have unavoidably occurred at times. In the year 1806 the mail boat was swamped, and only two lives were saved.

The

* Collectanea, Vol. I. p. 78.

The spring tides rise about twelve feet, when the river is about half a mile across; at low water, not above fifty yards. But owing to sand banks, the fluctuations are very great.

At the same time that plans and estimates for a bridge across the Menai straits were made out, a communication was proposed between the two banks of this river by similar means. And under the present active auspices of the post-office, the desirable object may, perhaps, in a few years receive its accomplishment.

The *pearl* fishery, noticed here so early as the Roman period, and the boast of the country in succeeding ages, is now held in little estimation, although the species of muscle, *Mya margaritifera* producing them, is still found in the sandy bed of the river.

The peninsula containing the hundred of Creiddin, situated on the eastern side of the river, terminates in the promontory of the Great Ormes Head, or Llandudno rocks. The very lofty cliffs are almost perpendicular, and frequented by a similar description of the feathered tribes, observable on the opposite shore of Priestholme Island.

On this singular tract, are two small churches. In the parish of EGLWYS RHOS, stood the ruins of the celebrated *Diganwy* castle. This called by the English historians *Gannoc*, was supposed to have been erected about the time of the Norman conquest. But most probably anterior to that period. The Welsh historians, say an ancient city subsisted here, which A. D. 810 was destroyed by lightning. And this Camden supposed was the *Dictum* of the Itinerary, so called from having been a station for part of the *Nervii Dictenses* in the Roman army. Long was it a place of consequence, while Welsh and English contentions subsisted, and was finally dismantled by him, whom it had protected in the year 1260.

The structure appears to have comprised two round massy towers placed on the summits of low adjacent hills. Two parallel curtain walls connected those and defended the inter-

vening passages. One of these with fragments of foundation walls are yet traceable. And the position was admirably adapted to defend the entrance into the river. The limestone strata of this tract contains copper ore of a productive quality. Several attempts at different periods appear to have been made, for procuring the subterraneous treasures of this district, with varied, but not flattering results. Lately however an old mine worked by a new company of adventurers, has answered the wishes of those engaged in the concern, and promises to amply compensate their spirited exertions.

Not far distant from BODSCALLAN, an ancient seat of the Wynn's, now of the Mostyn's, is

GLODDAETH a seat of *Sir Thomas Mostyn* : a fine old mansion, erected by an ancestor of the present proprietor, in the reign of Elizabeth. It is situated on an extensive limestone rock, and was environed with numerous plantations of indigenous derivation. These have in a great degree given place to more modern embellishments. The walks, lawns, &c. are softened features, in the striking and surrounding scenery. The library is celebrated, as one of the few, possessing valuable manuscripts of Welsh Literature.

MARLE to which the property of Conwy ferry has been annexed, is little more than a shell of a good mansion, it having suffered severely by fire several years since.

CONOVIVM an ancient town in this part, called by Camden *Caer Hen*, or the old city, but by the Welsh *Caer Rhun*, from a prince of that name, having had a palace here ; was situated on a flat part of the margin of the river. For centuries inscribed bricks, urns, pottery-ware, lamps, vases, and various Roman antiquities, induced the curious historic investigator, to fix here the station of the itinerary, nineteen miles distant from *Varis* and twenty-four from *Segontium*.

On further researches, pottery ware of the most curious kinds, and embellished with the most fanciful, tasteful, and brilliant figures were discovered. Some had impressions of men, clad in armour, others with dogs in full pursuit of the stag. Of these

these some were sky-blue, pale, and vivid red, of a fine glaze, and others unglazed.

A most curious piece of antiquity was at the same time found, that wore the semblance of a different era. This was a brazen shield of a circular form, having on its face concentric embossed rings, or circles with numerous, studs, or pins, from the circumference to the centre; where a sharp piece of wrought-iron, five inches in length, formed the fixed and rallying point. The inside of this shield, about a foot in diameter, was stuffed with hair, and covered with leather. This was doubtless a weapon of defence, which bespeaks an age subsequent to the period, assigned for the origin of the place.

That lover of antiquarian research the late rev. H. D. Griffiths, on whose property the remains were situated, was induced to make many and repeated inquiries, respecting what curious vestiges had been traced, or probably yet might be traceable. And on mature investigation, he thought sufficient reasons subsisted, to contradict the generally received opinion of a bath, and hypocaust having been at any former time discovered here.

In a platform, situated on a small mount, which formed a parallelogram, measuring a hundred and fifty yards in length, and about a hundred in breadth, the foundations of numerous apartments were discovered, on clearing away the superincumbent mass. These were buildings, it is supposed, designated for the various operations of an extensive Roman pottery.

About this time the ruins of the old wall being further examined the vestiges of a Roman *villa* were discovered comprising several rooms: five in the front, inclusive of a *sudatory*.

Caer Rhun, is at present a pleasing little village, surrounded with wood, and open to the water. The vale of the Conwy, teems with interesting prospects. It is watered by a river, whose natural beauties, as well as historic scenes, have occasioned its celebrity to be reiterated full oft in song; and adorned by all the diversity that can arise from a well wooded, highly cultivated country, contrasted with the variation of mountainous scenery.

On the western side, the abrupt termination of the Snowdon chain, down the declivities of which, through innumerable chasms, fissures, and gullies, rush the superfluous waters of the lakes above, to mingle with the parent ocean. The scenery is the most varied about *Pont Dolgarrog*, and *Pont Porth Llwyd*, alpine stone bridges thrown across the streams issuing from *Llyn Cowlid* and *Llyn Geirionedd*; each in passing the rocky barrier forms a considerable fall, but the latter by far the most magnificent, is called by the people, *Rhaiadr mawr*, This, which Mr. Bingley viewed as the most grand and picturesque waterfall of any he had seen in North Wales, is thus strongly described: "I ascended along a winding path, which after about a quarter of an hour's walk, conducted me to the bed of the river, near the station from whence it was to be seen to the greatest advantage. The water in the river, which runs from a pool among the mountains above, called *Llyn Eigiau*,* from the late dry weather, was very inconsiderable. The scene, however, was still highly picturesque. From the upper part two streams, one of them much the broadest, descended, at some distance from each other. The range of rock down which the water was thrown, was very wide and extremely rude, being formed, in horizontal ledges, into deep clefts and enormous chasms. Around the whole, and on the various lodgments of the rocks, were numerous pendant shrubs. The dark shades of the clefts, and the irregular brilliancy of the prominent features of the scene, from the reflected rays of the sun contrasted again with the foaming of the water, were truly grand. The colours of the rock, which were every

* Mr. Evans, in his map, has not been correct in the situations of two or three of the mountain pools on the west side of the road leading from Conwy to Llanrwst. *Llyn Geirionedd*, which he has marked as supplying the river that runs under *Pont Porthllwyd*, is somewhat south of the station in the map; and *Llyn Cowlid*, which I have visited, but which is altogether uninteresting, I shall not describe, is within two miles of *Capel Curig*. *Llyn Eigiau* supplies the water that forms this cataract, and flows to *Pont Porthllwyd*.

every where also very dark, were rich and highly varied. The streams united a little above the middle of the fall: they rushed from thence in foam over the rocks, and from the deep shelvings, in many places the water was entirely hidden from me below. In addition to this, nearly every different stratum of rock threw it into a fresh direction. In the whole scene there was the utmost irregularity. On the right of the cataract, the inclosing rocks were nearly perpendicular, very lofty, and crowned with pendant foliage. Those on the left were very high and towering, adorned on the lodgements with grass and ferns.*

Llyn Geironedd, has strong attachments to lay upon those, who profess to be friendly to the votaries of the Muses; or have minds alive to genuine poesy. On the margin of this lake, *Taliesin*, a prince among British poets, who flourished about the year 560; chiefly took up his residence. He was a foundling of no usual kind. *Elphin*, son of Gwyddno Goronhir, had received the grant of a salmon weir for his support, and on a certain day, while fishing, he found floating on the water a child, concealed in a leathern bag; the young prince felt instant compassion for the exposed infant, and directed, that proper care should be taken of him till he grew up. *Elphin*, is said to have flourished in consequence; and the eleve addressed to his deliverer a most pathetic and moral ode, intitled, *Dyhuddiant Elphin*, supposed to have been delivered the night he was found.

Amid those dense and extensive natural groves of venerable oaks, which clothe the rocks projecting between the Conwy and the Llygwy, stands

GWYDIR or *Gwedir*, an ancient mansion, erected as intimated by the initials and date over the gateway, by John Wynne ap Meredith, in the year 1555.

The name has been derived from *Gwy*, water, and *tîr*, land; part

part of the adjacent grounds being subject to the river inundations. But Mr. Pennant thought it received the distinctive appellation from several sanguinary conflicts between British chieftains, that took place near the spot.

The buildings, though extensive, are irregular, ranged in the quadrangular style, comprising an outer and inner court; but the structure has little to boast as to architectural design. That it was the first house in Wales, accommodated with glass windows, is too futile for animadversion. On an eminence commanding a view over the rich meadows of the Conwy, stood *Upper Gwyder*, erected by Sir John Wynn, in the year 1604. The house was a few years since taken down, and no part left except the family chapel, a small neat looking building, in the pointed style; but miserably marred within by its professed decorations: scriptural figures badly designed, and worse executed.

Gwydir, is at present the property of Lord Gwydir, in right of his Lady Priscilla, Baroness Willoughby, eldest sister of Robert, late Duke of Ancaster.

The former residence of the Wynns, has witnessed several distinguished persons of that ancient family. Sir John, the founder, was a man of great abilities. He went early to London, where studying the law he distinguished himself, and soon rose to eminence. His consequence in the profession soon attracted the notice of the court; of which he became a favourite and follower. He was an eccentric genius, haughty in his views, and austere in his measures; as will appear by the injunctions for the regulation of one part of the establishment of his household, contained in a formula, called,

Sir John Wynne of Gwedir's instructions to his chaplain, John Price, how to govern himself in his service.

First, You shall have the chamber, I shewed you in my gate, private to yourself, with lock and key, and all necessities.

In the morning I expect you should rise, and say prayers in
my

my hall, to my household below, before they go to work, and when they come in at nygt--that you call before you all the workmen, especially the yowth, and take accompt of them of their belief, and of what Sir Meredith taught them. I beg you to continue for the more part in the lower house: you are to have onely what is done there, that you may inform me of any disorder there. There is a baylyf of husbandry, and a porter, who will be commanded by you.

The morninge after you be up, and have said prayers, as afore, I wo^d you to bestow it in study, for any commendable exercise of your body.

Before dinner you are to com up and attend grace, or prayers if there be any publicke; and to set up, if there be not greater strangers, above the chyldren, who you are to teach in your own chamber.

When the table, from half downwards, is taken up, then are you to rise and to walk in the alleys near at hand, until grace time, and to come in then for that purpose.

After dinner, if I be busy, you may go to bowles, shuffel bord, or any other honest decent recreation, until I go abroad. If you see me voyd of business, and go to ride abroad, you shall command a gelding to be made ready by the grooms of the stable, and to go with me. If I go to bowles, or shuffel bord, I shall lyke of your company, if the place be not made up with strangers. I wold have you go every Sunday in the year to some church hereabouts, to preache, giving warnynge to the parish to bring the yowths at after noon to the church to be catekysed; in which poynt is my greatest care that you be paynfull and dylygent.

Avoyd the alehowse, to sytt and keepe drunkards company ther, being the greatest discredit your function can have.

He had, doubtless, laid down other maxims for the good government of his household, in all the principal departments of the system. These, could they be collected, would furnish a

set

set of very useful and instructive lessons for conducting the domestic concerns of modern mansions.

SIR JOHN WYNN, previously mentioned, as the constructor of the Upper Gwyder, was a learned antiquary, and indefatigable collector. Numerous gleanings, respecting Welsh affairs, he accumulated, under the title of *The History of the Gwydir Family*. An edition of this work was printed in a small volume ; and one in quarto, among *Miscellanies*, by the Hon. Daines Barrington.

The character of this person appears to have been unjustly aspersed, and his memory subjected to undeserved ignominy. The tradition of the country holds him up to view, as a great oppressor ; and for his vast injustice, the people have directed his perturbed spirit to take up its restless abode among the ragged rocks, and restless waters of the neighbouring cataract of *Rhaiadr y Wenol*. This, like many other popular prejudices, has hitherto been unaccounted for. But the cause will not be difficult to trace. About that period the ferment was strong, between lay and spiritual power, respecting the alienation and recovery of ecclesiastical property. The Wynns were among the great lay impropiators, to whom had been granted by the Crown, some few of the spoils at the dissolution of the monasteries. They, as many now do, viewing tythe as their most eligible property, were exceedingly tenacious of it. While on the other side, the clergy considered the whole as the patrimony of the church : and any detention of such, an act of sacrilege. Continued altercations between this family, and the bishops of Bangor occurred on the subject, And as might be expected from the complexion of the times, the popular opinion supported the clerical conduct. Out of these unhappy differences, for the comfort of the country, arose the obloquy, that consigns to Sir John's spirit the dismal habitation.

Whoever now may happen to visit this part to view the fine falls of the Llygwy, will have to lament the changes taking place





